



NEWS



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Functional Needs Mapping Effort Going Door-To-Door

McLean County Health Department coordinating teams to conduct functional needs mapping surveys

BLOOMINGTON – From May 19th until May 25rd, the McLean County Health Department will be sending teams to go door-to-door to conduct Functional Needs Mapping surveys in Bloomington and Normal. Individuals with the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) teams will be wearing yellow vests imprinted with the McLean County Health Department logo and carry identification badges. All door-to-door surveys will be conducted between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and there will be no teams out on Saturday, May 21st or Sunday, May 22nd.

“Participation by the community remains critical to the success of the functional needs mapping effort,” explains David Hopper, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at the McLean County Health Department. “We thank everyone who has taken time to either fill out the survey on the health department website or complete a paper copy at Child Care Resource & Referral Network, First United Methodist Church of Normal, Heartland Head Start – Stillwell location, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, or Immanuel Health Center. The surveys can still be accessed through those outlets until June 10th, but we are now also going to spend time out in neighborhoods actively soliciting surveys. Depending on time and resources, we may even be able to do another round of door-to-door surveying before the project wraps-up in June.”

All survey submissions are kept anonymous and confidential. Information gathered about income enables emergency planners to estimate how quickly a household may be able to rebuild after a disaster and how much outside help may be needed. Location information provides a snapshot of the functional needs in a given neighborhood, so that if for instance, a certain area has a high rate of non-English speakers, information and aid to that area can come in the preferred language of those residents.

The Functional Needs Mapping Project combines the efforts of the McLean County Health Department with the Department of Geography-Geology and GEOMAP at Illinois State University. The information gathered will improve public health planning before, during and after disasters and produce mapping data showing concentrations of residents by functional needs that can be shared with other local, regional, and state disaster response agencies to better allocate limited disaster resources in emergency situations.

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Funding for the functional needs mapping project is provided by a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Future plans may include smaller scale functional needs mapping initiatives focused on McLean County communities outside of Bloomington-Normal. For additional information about this project or information about disaster preparedness planning for individuals, families, and businesses, please call (309) 888-5987 or visit the health department online at <http://health.mcleancountyil.gov>.

The McLean County Health Department is dedicated to the prevention and control of disease through health promotion, early intervention and health protection within our county. “Like” McLeanHealth on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter, for information about public health affecting you.

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