



NEWS



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McLean County Health Department Celebrates Its 70th Anniversary *Department marks 70 years of service to McLean County residents*

BLOOMINGTON – The McLean County Health Department reaches a milestone this month, celebrating 70 years of providing public health services for McLean County residents and visitors. Rooted in the passing of the Searcy-Clabaugh Public Health Law in 1943, which made it possible for the development of county health units in Illinois, McLean County residents voted at a judicial election in 1945 to levy a tax to provide for a county public health department. In November of 1946 the McLean County Health Department officially opened its doors, assuming the activities of the 66-year old Bloomington City Health Department and expanding services to all of McLean County and making the health department legally responsible for the protection of community health.

From infectious diseases, sanitary nuisances and environmental dangers: to mental health coordination, HIV counseling and testing, West Nile Virus surveillance and bioterrorism planning and response, the health department's focus has steadily expanded over the years, to keep pace with an ever-changing world and an ever-mobile community. While the goal of public health has always been to ensure a safe and healthy community, how we reach that goal has evolved over time as a result of advances in science and technology along with the emergence of new threats and needs within the community.

We continue to rely on the support and active participation of the medical providers, nurses, community health and welfare agencies, and McLean County citizens, as well as the policy guidance of the Board of Health to assure that McLean County remains a healthy place to live.

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At its inception, the health department employed two employees – a director and a sanitary engineer. Today the McLean County Health Department employs nearly 90 individuals who are responsible for community health services, maternal child health services, behavioral health coordination, environmental health services and health education.

Beginning in January in recognition of the 70th anniversary, watch for a year-long series of highlights on the health department's website that call attention to significant events and items of interest in the agency's history.

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. Follow us on Twitter (@McLeanHealth) and "Like" us on Facebook (Facebook.com/McLeanHealth), for information about public health affecting you.

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