WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ISSUE!

Public Health Madison & Dane County’s NEWS YOU CAN USE is intended to provide public health related information for you to share with your stakeholders and community through your newsletters, website, blog or other communication modes.

We will send you 2-3 short, timely features regularly, related to public health services, health and safety, and new initiatives in Dane County. We hope you will find this information useful and share it widely!

TOPICS

What do you do if you find a bat in your house?
Add immunizations to the back to school preparation list
Making sure food is safe at community fairs and festivals
What do you do if you find a bat in your house?

Bats are primary carriers of rabies, and bat bites are often hard to detect. Summer is the most common time of year to find a bat in your house. Usually, you can just shoo the bat out, then look for and fix its entrance into your home. But if you find a bat in an area where someone has been sleeping, it raises concerns that someone was unknowingly bitten and possibly exposed to rabies. In this situation, you will want to keep the bat so it is available for lab testing to know whether or not it had rabies.

- If there is a possibility of a bat bite, and the bat is alive, try to catch it safely. Note: Do not crush its head, as that part is needed for testing.
- If you find a dead bat, use a paper towel or disposable rubber gloves and carefully place it in a plastic container and put it in the fridge for safe keeping.
- After containing the bat, call Police and Fire Dispatch at (608) 255-2345 during business hours and ask for Animal Services. A Public Health Madison & Dane County Animal Services Officer will pick up the bat and take it to the lab.
- If the lab test says the bat has rabies or if you were unable to capture the bat to have it tested, you will need the rabies vaccine. Public Health Madison and Dane County Rabies Prevention

Add immunizations to your back to school preparation list

The back to school rush has started. Public Health Madison & Dane County is urging parents to add one more thing to their back to school lists; getting their children up-to-date on their immunizations. Vaccines are safe and effective. State law requires certain vaccines for children in schools and daycares. Student Immunization Law Requirements.

Vaccines offer protection for your child from 16 potentially serious diseases. Immunizing your child also helps protect others with weak immune systems, such as infants, older adults and those on chemotherapy. The more people immunized in a community, the less disease there is.

To find current immunization records and recommended vaccines, check the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) online, or contact your child's health care provider. Students not meeting the requirement for vaccines by mid-October may not be able to go to school again until immunized. Don't wait. Call for an appointment with your child's health care provider to make sure your child gets the needed immunizations.

Public Health-Madison & Dane County provides free immunizations for children who
Making sure food is safe at community fairs and festivals

Community fairs, festivals and other events are fun summer activities, but how do you know that what you're eating at these events is safe? That's where Public Health Madison & Dane County comes in with its staff of Sanitarians. They are working behind the scenes at all events throughout the county to assure the food we eat is prepared in a safe manner to minimize the risk of developing foodborne illnesses.

The process starts with each food vendor applying for a permit and receiving detailed instructions on what is required to pass inspection so they are able to sell food and drink at an event. During inspections Public Health Sanitarians check on things like food temperature, glove use and hand washing, and that dishes are washed and sanitized properly. If problems are found, the vendor is required to correct them before a permit is issued. When a permit is issued, it is required to be posted in public view.

Getting the inspections done before an event starts can be an intense effort. As an example, at last year's Taste of Madison, 85 food stands were inspected by nine inspectors in about two hours!