



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Lieske Giese, RN, MSPH
Director/Health Officer
715-839-4718
After 5:00 p.m. – 715-514-7881 (cell)
Elizabeth.Giese@co.eau-claire.wi.us

National Public Health Week 2014

Eau Claire, WI -March 7th, 2014- Eau Claire City-County Health Department recognizes National Public Health Week 2014 by promoting this year's theme, "Public Health: Start Here." Since 1995, communities nationwide have celebrated National Public Health Week each April to celebrate the role of public health and prevention in our communities.

Public health plays an important role in protecting the health and safeguarding the lives of our residents - from restaurant inspections to reproductive health services, from well water testing to immunizations, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department provides essential services to keep our community healthy.

Public health emphasizes prevention, works to improve the environment around us and to promote healthy behaviors. Every year in Wisconsin and in the United States, 7 of the 10 leading causes of death are due to preventable chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. Here in Eau Claire County, heart disease and cancer are the leading causes of death. In fact, chronic diseases account for a whopping 75 percent of national health care spending, yet only 3 percent of our health care dollars go toward prevention. But there are steps we can take to help turn these statistics around.

"Investing in prevention and public health can make an enormous difference," says Lieske Giese, Director/Health Officer of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. "National Public Health Week is a time for us to recognize that we all have a role to play in making our community, where we live, work and play, a healthier place."

For more information about National Public Health Week, visit www.nphw.org. To learn more about public health efforts in Eau Claire County, visit www.ehealthdepartment.org

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