

## National Public Health Week

Each year Meigs County Health Department staff celebrate National Public Health Week, which is a chance to honor public health workers and promote public health practices. This year National Public Health Week will be held April 6-12. Public Health Week has an overall theme and then daily priority areas to address through events and promotions. The theme this year is Ready. Set. Action! and encourages people to review the progress they have made and plan for the steps to a healthier future. This theme focuses on the fact the Good Health Doesn't Just Happen. The Priority Areas listed below explain more.

1. Government Partners-Public Health and Government agencies must work together to create and implement laws for the safety of the community. These include evidence-based immunization schedules and vaccine distribution, seat belt laws, creation of the 911 system, and implementation of the Clean Water Act. Equal distribution of public health resources, partnerships, data sharing, training, and investments in workforce keep these initiatives going.
2. Scientific Advancement-Advancements in science mean that child mortality has decreased by more than 30% in the last 100 years. Life expectancy overall has increased by more than 30 years in the same timeframe. Prenatal deaths have decreased dramatically thanks to advancements in hospital safety standards.
3. Community Leadership-Green space such as parks and walking/biking paths not only encourage physical activity, but can also create a place for community gardens. Libraries and community centers may serve as cooling or warming centers.
4. You Partner with Public Health-During Public Health Week and throughout the year participate in health promotion activities such as community clean-up, advocate for health policies, or take part in community-based health education efforts.

Good health doesn't just happen; you have to work at it. Information provided by:  
<https://www.apha.org/initiatives/national-public-health-week/themes-and-facts>

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