



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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Governor Hoeven Proclaims Public Health Week

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed April 5 through 11, 2010, as Public Health Week in North Dakota.

National Public Health Week is celebrated each April. To highlight this year's theme of "A Healthier America: One Community at a Time," public health leaders across the country are calling on Americans to commit to making America a healthier nation, one community at a time.

"North Dakotans can make a real difference if they commit to healthy behaviors for themselves, their children and families," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. "Individuals and communities must adopt public health policies and practices that keep us all healthy."

North Dakota's local public health units and the North Dakota Department of Health, along with numerous other organizations, are working to protect North Dakotans from infectious and chronic diseases, environmental and workplace hazards, unintentional injuries, violence, and public health emergencies. In addition, *Healthy North Dakota* is a statewide initiative developing strategies to improve the health of North Dakotans one community at a time by supporting individuals as they make healthy choices and by making communities healthier.

"We need to recognize that public health is much more than eating fruits and vegetables, getting vaccinations and quitting smoking," Dwelle said. "We must think more broadly about what we can do to improve our communities on a larger scale. Our ultimate goal is to make North Dakota a place where a healthy lifestyle is celebrated. If we each commit to promoting good health in our communities, we can create a ripple effect across our neighborhoods, our cities and our state."

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Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

For more information about Public Health Week, contact Kelly Nagel, local public health liaison, at 701.328.2372.

Please note: Proclamation follows.

PROCLAMATION
PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK
April 5 through 11, 2010

WHEREAS, North Dakota's local public health units and the North Dakota Department of Health, along with numerous other organizations, are working to protect North Dakotans from infectious and chronic diseases, environmental and workplace hazards, unintentional injuries, violence, and public health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, public health programs and services benefit everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status and are essential to a strong, successful health system; and

WHEREAS, state and local public health professionals strive to educate North Dakotans about ways they can stay healthy; and

WHEREAS, we can build a healthy North Dakota one community at a time by supporting individuals as they make healthy choices and by making communities healthier; and

WHEREAS, state and local public health agencies and the citizens of North Dakota are encouraged to celebrate and acknowledge the many benefits of public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 5 through 11, 2010, as **Public Health Week** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven
Governor

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