

HOWELL COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**SEPTEMBER CALENDAR**

**WIC:** 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30

**Willow Springs WIC:** 2

**Mountain View WIC:** 23

**Family Planning:** 8, 16, 22

**Immunizations:** 3, 10, 17, 24

**Food Handlers:** 14, 28

**Holiday's (closed):** 7th Labor Day

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Clinic Hours:

Monday-Friday 8-12 & 1-5,  
closed for lunch 12-1

Administration Hours

Monday-Friday 8-5

# Monthly Monitor

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SEPTEMBER 2020

## National Child Passenger Safety Week by Dawn Hicks, Health Educator, CPSTI

Child Passenger Safety Week is September 20-26, 2020. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 1-13. During CPS week Howell Co. Health Department wants to encourage everyone to make sure their child's car seat or booster seat is installed properly and to make sure children in seatbelts are big enough to wear a seatbelt and do not need a booster seat.

Over 70-90% of car seats / booster seats are installed incorrectly which can increase injuries and even death. Howell County Health



Department has 4 nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians on staff who can help educate parents, grandparents and caregivers on how to properly install your car seat. They will also educate you on how to make sure the child is properly secured in the car seat, booster seat or seatbelt.

Which seat is the best seat for my child? The answer is the seat that fits

your vehicle, fits your child and that you will use correctly every single time. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration has a website [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) where you can go and find their "Ease of Use" ratings for car seats and booster seats. All NHTSA-rated car seats meet Federal Safety Standards and strict crash performance standards. While all rated seats are safe, they do differ in their ease of use.

Call us at 417-256-7078 for questions about your child's car seat or to schedule an appointment to make sure your car seat or booster seat is installed correctly.

## COVID-19 Testing Sites in Howell County

Please call ahead to the testing location to see if you meet their criteria to be screened for COVID-19 and to make an appointment. **Burton Creek: [417-256-2111](tel:417-256-2111).**

**Southern Missouri Community Health Center: [417-255-8464](tel:417-255-8464). Ozarks Medical Center Family Clinics are offering testing in West Plains and Mountain View. You**

**must first call the OMC hotline at [417-505-7120](tel:417-505-7120). The hotline is open 24hours a day, 7 days a week. OMC nurses will determine if you meet the criteria to be screened.**



Watch for our October Newsletter for flu clinic dates and times.

All WIC participants should be switched to a card instead of paper checks by the end of October.

Go to [www.dhss.mo.gov](http://www.dhss.mo.gov) to look for recalls..



## Influenza and Covid-19 by Kathy Doss, DON

The influenza or flu virus can be a harmful virus that sickens and kills people annually. Some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, making it hard to diagnose based on symptoms alone. Flu vaccines have been proven to reduce your risk of flu

illness and can help conserve healthcare resources during this global pandemic.

CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine for those 6 months of age and older. Howell County Health Department is currently planning flu clinics to be held in October. Dates, times and locations will be released in

September. This year's flu clinics will look different than in years past in an effort to maintain social distancing guidelines. Pre-registration and drive thru flu clinics are a couple of new changes you can expect. For more information regarding flu vaccination, please contact us at 417-256-7078 and speak with a member of our clinical staff.

## E-WIC Card Vouchers are Here from April Bridges, WIC Nutritionist

E-WIC is finally here! After a few delays, Howell County WIC has begun to issue benefits onto a card rather than on paper vouchers (checks). Rollout began August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and all Howell county participants should be switched over

by end of October. By using the card, participants can now get WIC foods without the hassle of checks at the register. Items like the cereal and fruits and vegetables can be spaced out throughout the month, rather than having to purchase them all at

once. Remaining benefits for each month can be viewed on the WIC Shopper App, or balance will be printed on bottom of store receipt after each WIC purchase. Ease of checkout will greatly improve the WIC shopping experience for both the participant and the retailer.

## Recalls by Justin Frazier, EPHS

A recall is a tool used by a company to remove products from sale that may be defective or harmful. Most recalls are voluntary actions taken by a company. When food recalls are announced the appropriate governmental agency reviews that announcement and assigns a classification based on the reason for the recall. Some recalls may have illness outbreaks or injury reports related to them. Others have tested posi-

tive for undeclared allergens or pathogens. The recall announcement is reviewed by either the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Consumers can find the recall announcements posted on these agency's web pages.

In an effort to better serve Missouri citizens, the Department of Health and Senior Services receives these announcements and

reviews them to determine how Missouri citizens are affected by the recall. Companies that issue recall notifications that list products that may have been distributed to Missouri or neighboring states are contacted by the Department to determine distribution. Recalls specific to Missouri are posted to the Department's recall webpage. When recalled product is available at retail food establishments in Missouri, the information on distribution is shared with Local Public Health Agencies.



## Howell County Health Department

180 S. Kentucky Ave  
West Plains, MO 65775

Phone: 417-256-7078

Fax: 417-256-1179

website: [www.howellcountyhealth.com](http://www.howellcountyhealth.com)

**Public Health: Prevent. Promote. Protect.**

The mission of the Howell County Health Department is to improve, promote and protect the health of Howell County through awareness, assessment, planning and assurance in order that our community may achieve their fullest health potential.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## Howell County Health Department Staff & Email

Administrator-Chris Gilliam, email: [chris.gilliam@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:chris.gilliam@lpha.mo.gov)

Assistant Admin, Vital Records Clerk-Kathy Parker, email: [kathy.parker@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:kathy.parker@lpha.mo.gov)

Financial Officer-Shelly Uphaus, email: [shelly.uphaus@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:shelly.uphaus@lpha.mo.gov)

Environmental Specialist-Justin Frazier, email: [justin.frazier@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:justin.frazier@lpha.mo.gov)

Health Educator-Dawn Hicks, email: [dawn.hicks@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:dawn.hicks@lpha.mo.gov)

Administration Receptionist-Kenzy Hudson, email: [kenzy.hudson@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:kenzy.hudson@lpha.mo.gov)

WIC Supervisor-Phyllis Crider, email: [phyllis.crider@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:phyllis.crider@lpha.mo.gov)

WIC Clerk-Sharon Owen, email: [sharon.owen@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:sharon.owen@lpha.mo.gov)

WIC Certifier, HPA & Clerk-Linda Lewis, email: [linda.lewis@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:linda.lewis@lpha.mo.gov)

WIC HPA-Candace Stockton, email: [candace.Stockton@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:candace.Stockton@lpha.mo.gov)

WIC Nutritionist-April Bridges, email: [april.bridges@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:april.bridges@lpha.mo.gov)

WIC Nurse Educator, email: [mary.moore@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:mary.moore@lpha.mo.gov)

WIC Breast Feeding Peer Counselor-April Bridges, email: [april.bridges@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:april.bridges@lpha.mo.gov)

Director of Nurses, Kathy Doss, email: [kathy.doss@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:kathy.doss@lpha.mo.gov)

Nurse-Vanessa Doss, email: [vanessa.doss@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:vanessa.doss@lpha.mo.gov)

Nurse-Jess McKee, email: [jessica.mckee@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:jessica.mckee@lpha.mo.gov)

Nurse-Katey Seiber, email: [katey.seiber@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:katey.seiber@lpha.mo.gov)

Nurse-Bev McDaniel, email: [beverly.mcdaniel@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:beverly.mcdaniel@lpha.mo.gov)

Front Desk Receptionist-Andi Schartz, email: [andi.schartz@lpha.mo.gov](mailto:andi.schartz@lpha.mo.gov)