

# HEALTH MATTERS

Helping Rock County Reach Its Full Health Potential

A newsletter from Rock County Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 2 | AUGUST 2023



Center photo: Shari Faber (RCPHD), Brooke McKearn (Vivent), and Amy Mitchell (BPL)

## PUBLIC HEALTH HIGHLIGHT: NARCAN® VENDING MACHINE

### Free NARCAN® Vending Machine Available at Beloit Public Library

Thanks to the work of several agencies and a \$50,000 grant from the state's Opioid Settlement Funds, Beloit now has access to free NARCAN® and fentanyl test strips through a vending machine located at Beloit Public Library (BPL).

Lead by Rock County Public Health Department (RCPHD), Vivent Health, and BPL, the initiative is intended to increase access to drug overdose prevention resources.

For the full press release, visit our [News](#) webpage.

For help and treatment for addictions, contact the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline, a statewide resource for finding treatment services and recovery support. The helpline is a free service that is available 24/7. Call 211 or 833-944-4673.



# IN THE COMMUNITY



## Maternal Health Resource Fair

RCPHD staff attended the Maternal Health Resource Fair hosted by United Healthcare on August 3 at the Eclipse Center to share maternal, child and family health resources with Rock County residents. RCPHD would like to thank United Healthcare for the opportunity to share important information and resources.



## Back-to-School Bash

On August 5, RCPHD staff attended the Back-to-School Bash hosted by the Beloit Coalition of Churches at Summit Park in Beloit. The event helped prepare children for the upcoming school year through games and giveaways of backpacks filled with school supplies. Our staff shared important information and resources about back-to-school vaccinations to ensure children stay safe and healthy in the upcoming school year.



Left to right: Jill (RCPHD), Sara (UW-Extension), and Courtney (RCPHD)

## Nutrition Collaborative Attends Beloit Farmer's Market

The Nutrition Collaborative of Rock County recently attended the Beloit Farmer's Market to share resources about food access with Rock County residents. The blender bike (pictured above) was a popular and innovative way for residents to create their own smoothies while exercising. Recipes for a variety of healthy meals were also given out to over 90 community members. Visit [their website](#) to learn more about the Collaborative and how you can help improve food access in Rock County. Look for the Nutrition Collaborative at future community events and farmer's markets!





## IN THE MEDIA



### Blue Green Algae in Rock County

Thank you to our media partners at the [Beloit Daily News](#), the [Janesville Gazette](#), and [WKOW Channel 27](#) for helping us share information about blue green algae in Rock County waterways. RCPHD Environmental Health officials observed [blue-green algae in the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong](#) in July. More information on blue-green algae can be found through [Wisconsin DHS](#) or by calling the Rock County Public Health Department at (608) 757-5440.



## PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



### Rock County 4-H Fair

Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) and Rock County Human Services joined forces with community partners to host a table at the Rock County 4-H Fair to share information on Rock County's mental health resources. The group shared about the importance of mental health and how to access mental health resources in Rock County.

Visit [their website](#) to learn more about the coalition and how you can help advance health equity in Rock County.

### Merrill Community Garden

The [Merrill Community Sharing Garden](#) was recently featured on [Channel 3000](#). We are proud partners of this effort to increase access to nutritious food and provide accessible food education to Beloit children and their families. RCPHD helped fund the installation of dual language garden signs and a brand new water line that will help double the amount of food grown in the garden.



Questions or feedback? We would love to hear from you! [Send us a message](#) on our website.

**GET CONNECTED!**