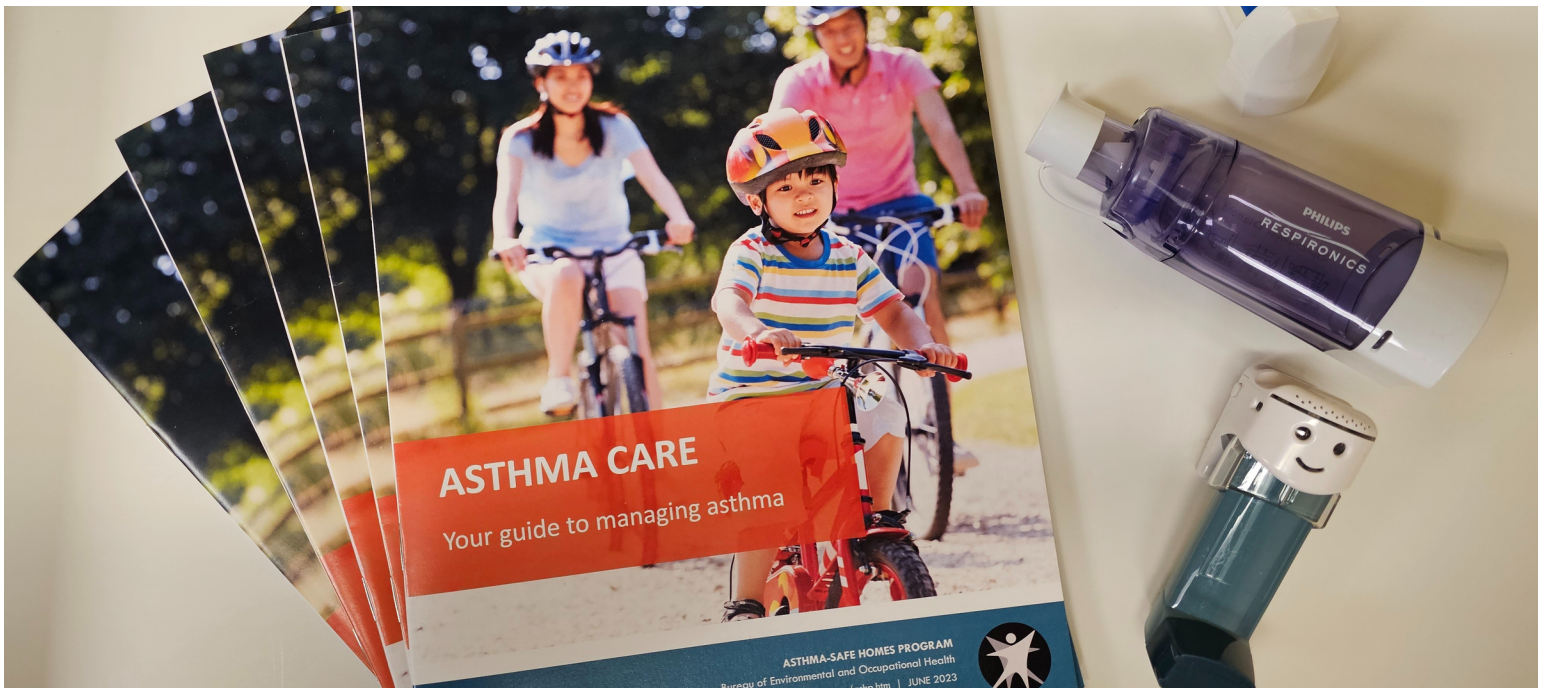


# HEALTH MATTERS

Helping Rock County Reach Its Full Health Potential

A newsletter from Rock County Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 4 | DECEMBER 2023



## PUBLIC HEALTH HIGHLIGHT: ASTHMA-SAFE HOMES PROGRAM

We are happy to announce that we will be participating in the [Asthma-Safe Homes Program](#) to improve access to asthma care resources in Rock County. From 2016-2018, Rock County had some of the [highest rates](#) of asthma-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits in Wisconsin.

The program provides free services, including education through home visits and asthma prevention products, to children ages 2-18 years old and pregnant parents enrolled in Medicaid who are experiencing symptoms from poorly controlled asthma. The program will also offer opportunities for home repair services to reduce asthma triggers through mold cleanup, carpet removal, and fixing leaky plumbing.

Currently, Rock County is only one of four counties in Wisconsin using this program to help create asthma-safe homes for Wisconsin residents. [Previous data](#) from other counties using this program shows that 79% of clients enrolled in the program reduced their asthma-related emergency room visits and 50% of clients avoided hospital stays.

We will be collaborating with local school nurses for referrals into the program. More information on the referral process is coming soon!



# IN THE COMMUNITY



*Rock County Diabetes Education Convening 2023*

## Diabetes Convening

On November 16, RCPH staff hosted the second Rock County Diabetes Education Convening in Janesville. The event created a space for local and state partners to learn about new and ongoing diabetes prevention programs, share resources, and develop plans to address local barriers to diabetes care.

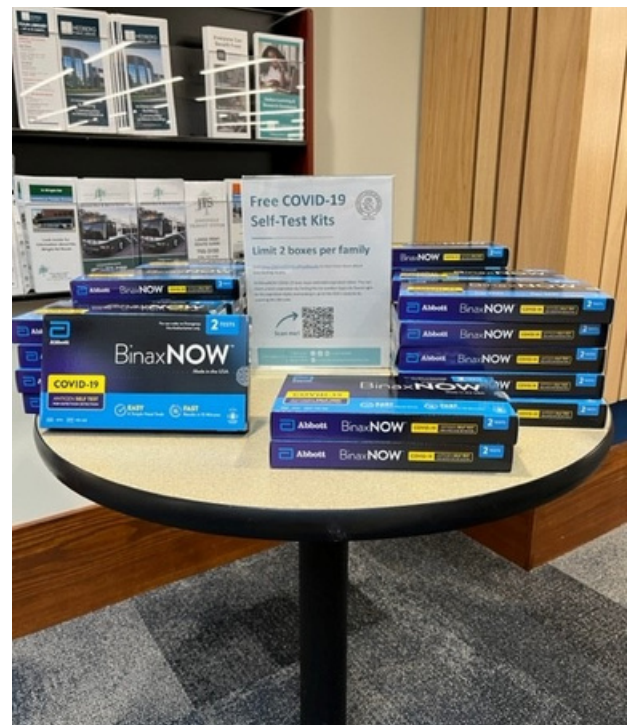
## COVID-19 Self-Test Kits

Members of our Communicable Disease team have been working with local libraries to increase access to free COVID-19 home test kits. Testing continues to be one of the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Stop by [Hedberg Public Library](#) or [Milton Public Library](#) to grab free COVID-19 test kits while supplies last.

Every U.S. household can also place another order to receive four free COVID-19 tests delivered directly to their home. Visit [covid.gov/tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests) to learn more and order today.

Visit our [COVID-19 webpage](#) to learn more about other testing options, COVID-19 vaccinations, and the work we do to prevent COVID-19 throughout Rock County.



*COVID-19 tests at Hedberg Public Library in Janesville.*



# IN THE MEDIA



## Opioid Settlement Article

November's edition of the [Wisconsin Counties Association magazine](#) featured an article written by one of our very own Public Health Strategists, Shari Faber. The article, "Creating a Roadmap: Rock County's Opioid Settlement Planning Process", highlighted Rock County's approach to allocating funds from the national opioid settlement.

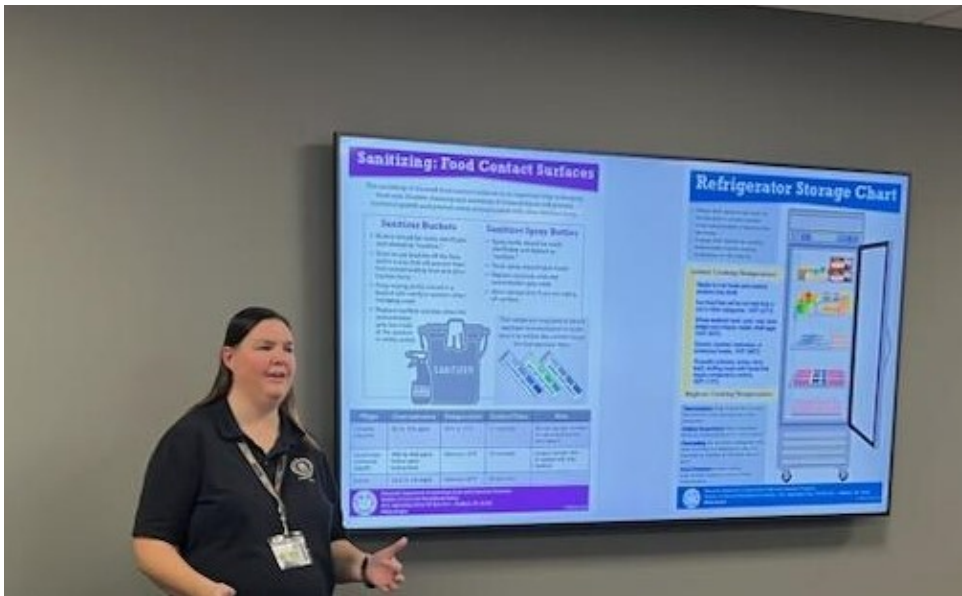


*by Shari Faber, Public Health Strategist, Rock County Public Health Department*

View Rock County's full [report of recommendations](#) to learn more about potential strategies for allocating national opioid settlement funds.



# PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



## Food Safety Certification Courses

In October, one of our Environmental Health Specialists, Amanda Wilder, partnered with Blackhawk Technical College to teach food safety certification courses for students interested in pursuing food safety careers. Each presentation described food safety regulations and how our Environmental Health staff help improve food safety through inspections of local restaurants throughout Rock County.

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

