

July/August/September 2005

Volume 5, Issue 3

Lafayette County Health Department

Special Interest Articles:

- Public Health Health Department Review
- Home Care Periodontal Disease
- Hospice Donations 2004

National Children's Dental Health Month



Checkout this great website with fun games for kids©

[www.ada.org/public/evnts/ncdhm/index.asp](http://www.ada.org/public/events/ncdhm/index.asp)

Public Health

Debbie Siegenthaler, RN, MSN Director

Lafayette County Health Department Passes Review By State Health Officials

The Lafayette County Health Department was very happy to hear from State Health Officer Herb Bostrom. He announced that the Health Department had successfully passed the state's health department review.

"The Lafayette County Health Department is working to make their community a healthier and safer place to live," said Bostrom. "Their Department has an actively engaged and supportive Board of Health, and does an excellent job of engaging the community in public health activities, keeping the community informed through regular media programming and through their work with area schools, daycares and health care providers."

"Congratulations to Lafayette County Health Department staff and Board of Health for demonstrating the infrastructure and program capacity to be confirmed as a Level II health department," added Bostrom.

A team from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health conducted a review of the Lafayette County Health Department on May 9, 2005. The results of this review show evidence that Lafayette County Health Department meets Level 1 requirements, the minimum level of services allowed under State Statutes for a health department, and additional requirements established for a Level II agency. The Level II requirements include employing a health officer who meets the qualifications under s.251.06(1)(b), Stats., and the agency provides at least seven programs or services that address at least five health priorities identified in the current health plan, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*. Formulas used by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health to distribute grant funds provide additional money to Level II health departments. No deficiencies were found during the review.

For information about the Lafayette County Health Department, Visit: www.lafayettecountyhealthdepartment.org



Periodontal (Gum) Disease:

Periodontal disease is an infection of the tissues that support your teeth. Periodontal diseases are classified according to the severity of the disease. The two major stages are gingivitis and periodontitis. Gingivitis is a milder and reversible form of periodontal disease that only affects the gums. Gingivitis may lead to more serious, destructive forms of periodontal disease called periodontitis.

Some factors increase the risk of developing periodontal disease:

- Tobacco smoking or chewing
- Systemic diseases such as diabetes
- Some types of medication such as steroids, some types of anti-epilepsy drugs, cancer therapy drugs, some calcium channel blockers and oral contraceptives
- Bridges that no longer fit properly
- Crooked teeth
- Fillings that have become defective
- Pregnancy or use of oral contraceptives

Several warning signs that can signal a problem:

- Gums that bleed easily
- Red, swollen, tender gums
- Gums, that have pulled away from the teeth
- Persistent bad breath or bad taste
- Permanent teeth that are loose or separating
- Any change in the way your teeth fit together when you bite
- Any change in the fit of partial dentures

It is possible to have periodontal disease and have no warning signs. That is one reason why regular dental checkups and periodontal examinations are very important. Treatment methods depend upon the type of disease and how far the condition has progressed. Good oral hygiene at home is essential to help keep periodontal disease from becoming more serious or recurring. **You don't have to lose teeth to periodontal disease.** Brush, clean between your teeth, eat a balanced diet, and schedule regular dental visits for a lifetime of healthy smiles.

Some people require preventive antibiotics with their dental treatment. If you are a patient with certain kinds of heart disease or a special heart condition, or you've had a joint replaced, taking good care of your teeth and gums is a must-not just for a healthy smile, but also for your overall health.



Why do I need antibiotics before my dental appointment?

During dental treatment, bleeding sometimes occurs. As a result, bacteria from the mouth can possibly enter the bloodstream and work their way to the heart. This presents a risk for some persons with cardiac abnormalities because the bacteria may cause bacterial endocarditis, a serious inflammation of the heart valves or tissues. Antibiotics reduce this risk.

What types of heart conditions pose a risk?

- Heart surgery within past six months
- Pacemaker
- Vascular surgery (replaced artery within past six months)
- Artificial heart valve
- History of rheumatic fever
- History of heart murmur (mitral valve prolapse)
- Previous bacterial endocarditis
- Systemic pulmonary shunt
- Congenital heart defect
- Acquired valvular dysfunction

What about a joint replacement?

The bacteria commonly found in the mouth may travel through the bloodstream and settle in your artificial joint. This increases your risk of contracting an infection. Your dentist and your orthopedic surgeon, working together, will develop an appropriate course of treatment for you.

For the first two years following a total joint placement, antibiotics prophylaxis is recommended for everyone. After two years, only high-risk patients may need to receive antibiotics for high risk procedures.

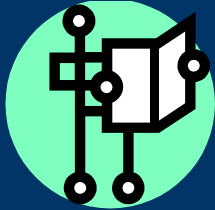
Other high risk categories that may require antibiotic treatment for dental procedures include:

- Rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus or other conditions that cause you to be immunocompromised or immunopressed
- Immunosuppression caused by drug or radiation treatment
- Malnourishment
- Hemophilia
- HIV infections
- Insulin dependent (Type1) diabetes
- Cancer

Hospice

Kristie Lueck, RN, BSN

The Lafayette County Hospice is grateful to the many people who donated to the program in 2004. Donations allow us to provide more services and recoup some of the costs of patient care that are not fully covered by reimbursement sources. Listed is the continuation of the last newsletter donors.



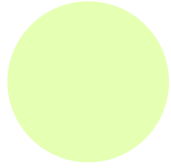
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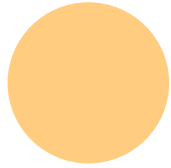
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