



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

Public Health Press

SPRING 2026

MARCH, APRIL, MAY



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- National Public Health Week
- Staff Welcome
- HPV Awareness & Prevention
- Tick Identification
- Local Radon Testing Results

National Public Health Week

Join DIDHD in celebrating National Public Health Week, April 6-12, 2026. Ready. Set. Action! is this year's theme. As we celebrate, take a moment to recognize how public health has improved our daily lives, safeguarded our families, expanded our life spans, and strengthened our communities.

This week is also a chance to honor the public health workers who show up for us every day — and to advocate for policies and practices that promote good health for all.

For more than 150 years, public health has reshaped what's possible in the United States — adding decades to life expectancy and dramatically improving quality of life. These achievements didn't happen by accident. They were the result of community health workers, medical professionals, scientists and advocates pushing for policies grounded in evidence and focused on equity.



Yet too often, these once-unimaginable gains are taken for granted. National Public Health Week (NPHW) 2026 invites all Americans to renew their commitment to strengthening the systems, science, and community partnerships that keep us healthy.

This year's theme — Ready. Set. Action! — calls on each of us to look back at the progress we've made and look forward to the steps needed for an even healthier future. Because one truth guides it all:

Good health doesn't just happen.

For more information on National Public Health Week—visit <https://www.apha.org/initiatives/national-public-health-week>

Welcome!

DIDHD is happy to introduce the new Health Officer, Wade Dishaw. Wade has been with the health department for 19 years, working as an Environmental Health Sanitarian. His experience and background in public health make him a great fit for our Department.



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March is HPV Awareness Month

80% of people will have HPV at some point in their lives and because it is highly contagious, spread by skin-to-skin contact, it is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI). Most people will not have any visible symptoms, therefore making it a hard infection to avoid. Most HPV viruses do not cause many problems but there are some types of HPV that can increase the risk of cancer as well as cause genital warts.

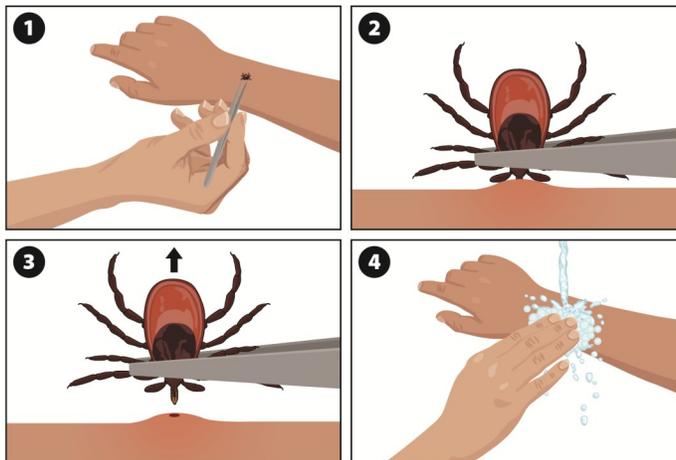
We can prevent HPV and reduce the risk of HPV-related cancer through increased awareness, practicing safe sex, vaccination, and screening.

Vaccination prior to sexual contact is the most effective way to protect against HPV and HPV cancers. Research shows that vaccination prevents almost 90% of cervical cancer cases. According to the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) "The HPV vaccine is one of the most effective cancer-prevention tools in modern medicine...reducing the risk of HPV-related cancers and genital warts by up to 99% in vaccinated populations". [The HPV Vaccine: A Game Changer for Cancer Prevention | ACOG](#)

For more information on HPV and vaccination, visit www.acog.org. Let's all do our part to protect ourselves and each other. Schedule a cervical screening or HPV vaccination today. Contact us at 906-265-9913 (Iron) or 906-774-1868 (Dickinson).

Tick Identification

Spring is here! Dickinson and Iron counties are two of the higher known risk areas for Lyme's disease in the state of Michigan. The DIDHD works with the public and Michigan Department Health and Human Services laboratory on submitting ticks for

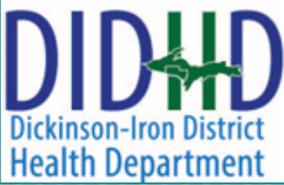


testing. If a person wants to submit a tick, they can bring them to either office and the EH division will package them and submit to state lab. At this time the tick will be analyzed for identification of tick species, determining the sex, whether it is an adult or nymph, and if the tick was engorged or not. They no longer test for the actual Lyme Disease bacteria. The reasoning for this is even if a tick is

determined to be positive it would still need to be on a person for 24-36 hours to transmit the disease. (Prompt removal of the ticks is the best method to decrease the chance of an infection.) When communicating test results to the client it may be discussed to consult with their physician on what treatment options should be done if any. Contact the Environmental Health division with questions, 906-779-7239.

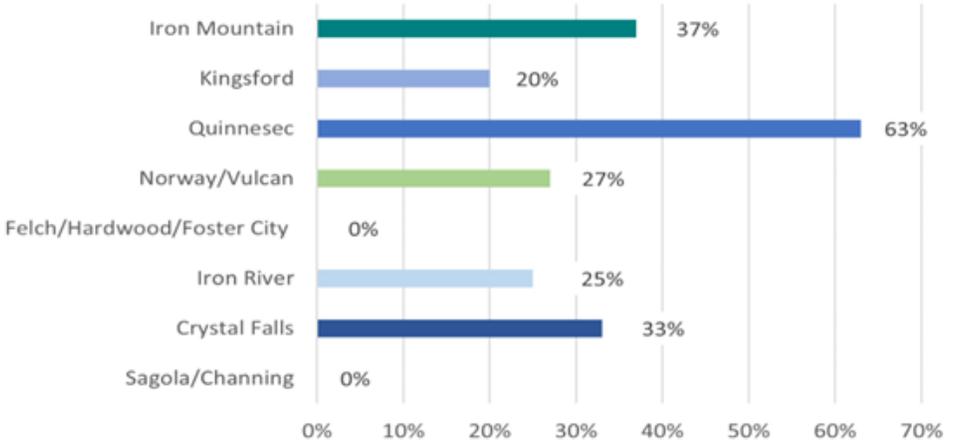
Local Radon Testing Results

The fact sheet below was created with the local data that is available to the department from testing that has occurred within our district in 2025. As you can see, radon gas is a concern within our counties. The only reliable way to know if your house's air is at a safe radon level is to test it. The department encourages testing of all homes no matter the age or construction. For more information on radon test kits, contact us at 906-779-7239.



RADON FACTSHEET

% of test kits that have results above 4.0 pCi/l
0% indicates no test received



County	% of test kits above 4.0 pCi/l
Iron Mountain	37%
Kingsford	20%
Quinnesec	63%
Norway/Vulcan	27%
Felch/Hardwood/Foster City	0%
Iron River	25%
Crystal Falls	33%
Sagola/Channing	0%

The graph above shows the percent of tested homes with radon levels above the normal baseline of 4.0 pCi/l. The data utilized is from local homes in both Dickinson and Iron Counties for January—December 2025.

Radon is a gas that you can't **see, smell, or taste**—but it can be dangerous. It's the second leading cause of **lung cancer** in the U.S.

Did You Know that
One-in-Four
Michigan Homes has
High Levels of Radon?

EGLE



For more information contact the
Environmental Health Division at:
906-779-7239
www.didhd.org






Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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1374 Commercial Avenue
Crystal Falls, MI 49920
Phone: 906-265-9913 Fax: 906-874-2950

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Mission Statement:

The mission of the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is to assure the highest possible level of health for the people of the communities it serves. To fulfill this mission, the Department works with individuals and organizations to prevent premature death, disability, illness and injury, to prolong life, and to promote the public health through disease prevention and control, health promotion and healthy environments, and through the provision of direct services for particularly vulnerable high risk population groups.



WE LIVE HERE. WE WORK HERE. WE CARE.



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