



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Kalamazoo County Celebrates National Public Health Week 2018** *Changing Our Future Together*

KALAMAZOO, MI— Join Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department (KCHCS) as we celebrate National Public Health Week 2018: Changing the Future Together, April 2-8. The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners approved a Resolution at the March 20, 2018 meeting marking this week “Public Health Week in Kalamazoo County,” and signaling the important role public health plays in the lives of Kalamazoo County residents.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to live a long, healthy life free from preventable disease and injury. Public health workers from health departments across the country work every day to ensure their communities have access to the basic foundations necessary for good health – clean water, safe food, breathable air and access to life-saving vaccines. In order for the United States to reach the goal of Healthiest Nation by 2030, focus must also be on achieving health equity within communities. This requires taking on the social determinants that often places barriers for health and safety in front of many of our neighbors and friends.

“For National Public Health Week we want to celebrate the power of prevention, advocate for healthy and equitable policies and share in strategies that create successful partnerships with the public and private sectors,” said James Rutherford, Health Officer for Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department. “Locally, Kalamazoo County Government and the Health & Community Services Department is committed to improving the health for all residents and tackling the underlying causes of poor health and disease risks; causes that are rooted in how and where individuals live, learn, work and play.”

During National Public Health Week, [KCHCS Facebook page](#) will focus on daily topics that speak directly to the unique and pressing public health issues and social determinants facing Kalamazoo County and the nation:

- Monday, April 2 – Behavioral Health: Advocate for and promote well-being
- Tuesday, April 3 – Communicable Disease: Learn about ways to prevent the spread of disease
- Wednesday, April 4 – Environmental Health: Help protect and maintain a healthy planet
- Thursday, April 5 – Injury and Violence Prevention: Learn about the effects of injury and violence on health

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## **HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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- Friday, April 6 – Ensuring the Right to Health: Advocate for everyone’s right to a healthy life by achieving health equity for all

Specific programs and services offered at the Health & Community Services Department will be highlighted as well as ways residents, organizations and businesses can join in the conversation in advocating for public health, safety and prevention. Help spread the word of public health topics by following, liking and sharing each of the posts.

For more information about Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, including how we are “Changing Our Future Together” visit [www.kalcounty.com/hcs](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs). For details on National Public Health Week 2018 visit [www.nphw.org](http://www.nphw.org).

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Kalamazoo County Government  
Health & Community Services Department

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