

# PUBLIC HEALTH HAPPENINGS

## COVID & Flu Update

The Rock Island County Health Department is continuing to administer the Flu and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines during the winter season. Call **309-794-7080** to make an appointment. Please bring your insurance card with you. You can get both vaccinations at the same time. There is some financial assistance available for those who are uninsured or their insurance doesn't cover vaccinations.

The Illinois Department of Public Health released a new Infectious Respiratory Disease Surveillance Dashboard which will be updated weekly on Friday afternoons. This tool will provide the public with the latest data on hospital visits, lab test positivity, seasonal trends & demographic data. Refer to this website for additional information:  
<https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.29400.html>

There are a few practices to keep in mind while gathering with friends and family during the colder months. Wash your hands frequently, stay home if you are sick, cover your coughs and sneezes & wear a mask in crowded places.

The federal government announced that as of November 20<sup>th</sup>, every household in the U.S. is eligible to receive four free at-home tests through the [COVID.gov](https://www.covid.gov) website.

## The Rock Island County 24/7 Disease Reporting (309) 794-7085

### Elevated levels of Lead Found in Cinnamon Applesauce Pouches

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has been investigating the high levels of lead that was determined to have come from the cinnamon in a common snack given to young children. In early November, the FDA issued a nation-wide recall on several brands of this product. To date—there have been 385 total cases in 42 states. Federal, state & local health departments are currently working together to set stricter guidelines and action limits on the level of lead to keep our food standards high.

#### Symptoms of Lead Poisoning

- ⇒ Abdominal pain, constipation & nausea
- ⇒ Anemia
- ⇒ Weakness & fatigue
- ⇒ Severe neurological symptoms

If parents suspect their children may have been exposed to lead, they should consult their pediatrician.

Please refer to the FDA's website for more information regarding this matter



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 Rock Island County Health Department

### Rock Island County Statistics August 2023-October 2023

Chlamydia	202	Hepatitis A	0	Lyme disease	1
Gonorrhea	75	Hepatitis B	2	West Nile	1
Syphilis	18	Hepatitis C	8	Zika (confirmed)	0
Histoplasmosis	1	Legionellosis	1	Salmonellosis	8
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	0	Campylobacteria	10	Shigellosis	0
Influenza w/ ICU hospitalization	1	Rabies, Potential Human/Animal Exposure	33	Malaria	3



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## Rock Island County Health Department

2112 25th Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: 309-793-1955

Fax: 309-794-7091

E-mail:

gverastegui@rockisland  
countyil.gov  
Administrator  
www.richd.org

Please Welcome our new Public Health Administrator—  
George Verástegui.

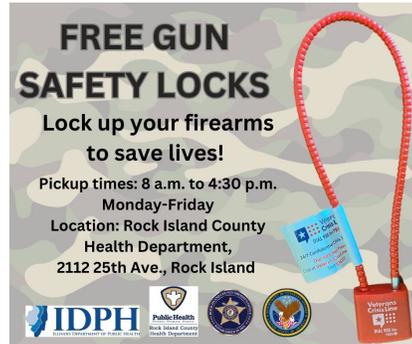
Mr. Verástegui moved from Mendocino County in California, where he was the Senior Program Manager for the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program. He comes to us as a Medical Graduate and holds a master's degree in public health from the University of San Francisco.

### February is...

- \* *Heart Health Awareness Month*
- \* *Black History Month*
- \* *Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month*
- \* *Youth Mental Health Awareness Month*



We are offering free gun safety locks until we run out of them. They are available at the Main Office & the WIC Department.



### Salmonella Outbreak in Cantaloupes

Fresh, whole cantaloupes and pre-packaged, cut-up cantaloupes were on a recall order at the end of November. The investigation has been closed per the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. This Salmonella outbreak had a total case count of 407 illnesses from 44 states. Please discard any frozen or pre-cut (snack packs) cantaloupe from the later fall season.

<https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/sundsvall-11-23/index.html>

### Water Testing Fees

Coliform Bacteria	\$40	\$60
Coliform Bacteria/Nitrates	\$80	\$100
Coliform Bacteria/Nitrates/Nitrites	\$100	\$120
Nitrates Only	\$40	\$60
Nitrates/Nitrites	\$60	\$80

For more information—call 309-558-2840  
(second column is for pick-up of sample)

### Save-the-Date

The Quad Cities Regional Disaster Conference will be held on  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 @  
The Quad Cities Waterfront Convention Center  
Bettendorf, IA

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## The Rock Island County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is looking for Volunteers

The mission of the Rock Island County MRC is to recruit, train and maintain a group of volunteers to assist with Public Health emergency response activities.

Volunteers may assist the RICHD during emergencies such as a tornado, a pandemic or a catastrophic event. Training will be provided to volunteers to improve our preparedness level and to increase emergency response efficiency.

The Rock Island MRC grew from 180 to 252 volunteers early into the pandemic. They supported a drive-through vaccination clinic. At their peak, COVID-19 vaccination clinics in February and March of 2021 served more than 1,100 visitors per clinic weekly. MRC volunteer roles included parking assistance, visitor check-ins, temperature checks, vaccination, post-vaccination observation and data entry. The Rock Island MRC was given mention in the journal—Health Security in the fall of 2023.

If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering for this organization, please refer to:  
<https://www.richd.org/medical-reserve-corps.php>  
or contact:

Kate Meyer, MRC Coordinator  
(309) 558-2945  
kmeyer@rockislandcountyil.gov

