

STONE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PLAN



Prepared:

**OCTOBER
2025**

Revised:

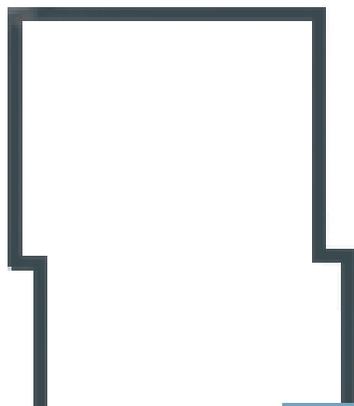
NO REVISIONS



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Stone County Health Department
Making Lives Better

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Introduction	1
		Breastfeeding	2
		Chronic Disease	3
		Communicable Disease	4
		Food Safety	5
		Mental Health	6
		Nutrition	7
Pregnancy and Parenthood	9	OWTS (Septic)	8
Public Health	10		
Safety	11		
Senior Health	12		
Sexual Health	13		
Substance Abuse	14		
Conclusion	15		
Contact Information	16		



Stone County

Missouri



32,000+

Residents



6,000,000+

Visitors Annually

INTRODUCTION

Public health relies on informed communities to promote healthier behaviors, prevent disease, and improve overall quality of life. Education is one of the most effective tools for empowering individuals and communities to make decisions that protect their health and well-being. This Community Education Plan builds upon the findings of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the priorities outlined in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), ensuring that education strategies are aligned with identified community needs and long-term health goals.

The plan provides accessible, accurate, and culturally appropriate education resources to the public. Through collaboration with the Stone County Community Health Coalition, local organizations, schools, healthcare providers, and community leaders, this education plan seeks to build trust, increase awareness, and reduce health disparities. Ultimately, the goal is to create a more informed, resilient, and healthy community.

BREASTFEEDING



SUPPORT GROUP

Location:

Stone County Health
Department Community Room
701 Old Wilderness Rd.
Reeds Spring, MO 65737
P: 417-272-0050

Breastfeeding is one of the most effective ways to ensure the health and well-being of both infants and mothers. Breast milk provides complete nutrition for babies, offering the perfect balance of proteins, fats, vitamins, and antibodies needed for healthy growth and development. It strengthens the infant's immune system, lowering the risk of infections, respiratory illnesses, ear infections, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Long-term, breastfeeding is also linked to reduced risks of obesity, diabetes, and certain chronic conditions. SCHD offers breastfeeding education through support groups and individual counseling.

BREASTFEEDING PEER COUNSELOR

Through the WIC (Women, Infant and Children) program women have access to individual breastfeeding education with the BFPC provides mothers with practical support, encouragement, and guidance throughout their breastfeeding journey. As someone with personal breastfeeding experience, the peer counselor offers relatable advice and reassurance that builds trust and confidence. Their support is rooted in empathy, understanding, and shared experience, making them uniquely positioned to address both the challenges and rewards of breastfeeding.

over **80%**

of WIC mothers in
Stone County begin
Breastfeeding.

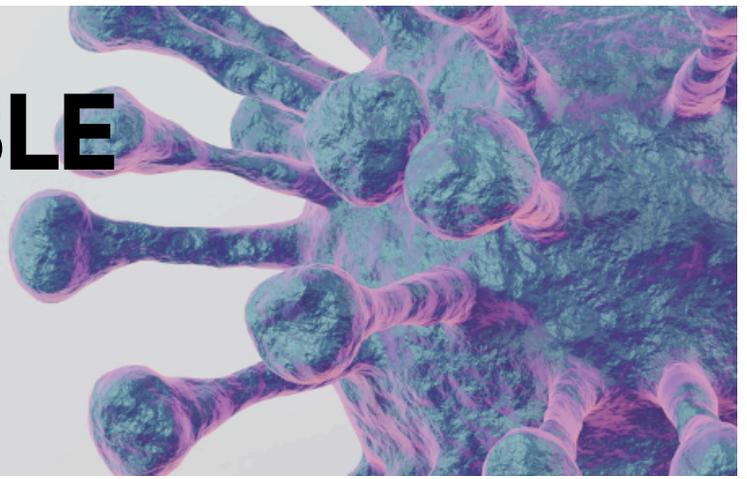
**BFPC education and support is by
appointment through the WIC
program.**

Location:

Stone County Health Department
Reeds Spring
or
Galena

P: 417-272-0050

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND ANIMAL BITES



Communicable diseases also known as infectious diseases are caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites and can spread directly or indirectly from person to person. Examples include influenza, COVID-19, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted infections. Public health plays a crucial role in preventing, controlling, and mitigating the impact of these diseases to protect individuals and communities.

MU EXTENSION HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GERMS AND HANDWASHING

P: 417-357-6812

Public health agencies track the occurrence and spread of communicable diseases through surveillance systems and by reporting from healthcare agencies. Timely data collection helps identify outbreaks, monitor trends, and detect emerging threats. Surveillance allows public health officials to respond quickly and implement targeted interventions to prevent further transmission. To ensure timely and accurate reporting SCHED offers the following E-learning or in person course to healthcare agencies:

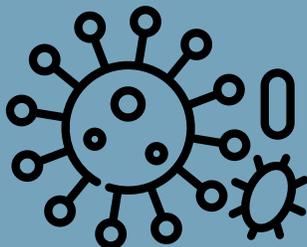
STONE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND ANIMAL BITE REPORTING

A: 701 OLD WILDERNESS RD, REEDS SPRING, MO 65737

P: 417-272-0050

W: WWW.STONECOUNTYHEALTHDEPARTMENT.COM



200+
DISEASE
INVESTIGATIONS
ANNUALLY IN
STONE COUNTY



100+
ANIMAL BITE
INVESTIGATIONS
ANNUALLY IN
STONE COUNTY

Chronic

long-lasting
had a disease

CHRONIC DISEASE

Chronic diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and respiratory illnesses, are leading causes of death and disability worldwide. These conditions often result from a combination of genetic, behavioral, and environmental factors, making their prevention complex but achievable through coordinated public health efforts. Public health plays a critical role in reducing the burden of chronic diseases by focusing on prevention, education, policy, and community engagement.

STONE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HEART HEALTH

P: 417-272-0050

W: WWW.STONECOUNTYHEALTHDEPARTMENT.COM

**MERCY
CHRONIC ILLNESS**
IN-PERSON, VIRTUAL OR AT HOME CLASSES
P: 417-888-6787

HEART DISEASE

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Stone County. The incidence of heart disease is higher in Stone County than in the state of Missouri.

FOOD SAFETY

Food safety in restaurants is essential for protecting public health and ensuring customer trust. When food is prepared, handled, and served safely, it reduces the risk of foodborne illnesses that can cause serious health issues. Proper food safety practices such as maintaining correct temperatures, preventing cross-contamination, practicing good hygiene, and following cleaning protocols help keep harmful bacteria and viruses out of meals.

Beyond protecting health, food safety is also vital for a restaurant's reputation and success. A single outbreak of foodborne illness can damage customer confidence, harm the business's credibility, and even result in legal and financial consequences. By prioritizing food safety, restaurants demonstrate responsibility, professionalism, and care for their customers.

Ultimately, food safety is more than just following rules it's about building trust, protecting the community, and ensuring that every meal served is safe and enjoyable.



STATE FOOD SAFETY

Food Handlers Training

W: <https://www.statefoodsafety.com/food-handler/missouri/stone-county>

SCHD inspectors inspect 200+ food establishments annually.

1 Staff member in most food establishments is required to complete a Food Handlers Training Course.



Food safety at home is equally important. Education on food safety is available through the organization below.

**MU Extension
Health and Human Services
Food Safety Classes**

P: 417-357-6812

MENTAL HEALTH



Strong mental health contributes to safer, more connected, and productive communities. Public health initiatives that promote mental wellness, provide access to care, and support social inclusion strengthen community resilience and reduce the impact of mental illness on families and society.

Mental Health Education and Resources in Stone County are listed here.

BURRELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

A: 18593 Bus. 13, STE. 104
Branson West, MO 65737
P: 417-761-5271
W: www.BurrellCenter.com

THE BROOK WELLNESS CENTER

A: 11016 E State Highway 76
Branson West, MO 65737
P: 417-527-8877
W: www.thebrookwellnesscenter.org

1,248,000

Missouri residents have a mental health condition

NUTRITION

Eating well fuels your body and mind. A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins helps prevent chronic diseases, boosts energy, supports a healthy weight, and improves mood and focus. Small, healthy choices every day can lead to big benefits for your overall health and well-being. Nutrition education resources are listed here.



Stone County Health Department Nutrition Counseling

A: 701 Old Wilderness Rd. Reeds Spring, MO 65737 or
109 East 4th Street, Galena, MO 65656

P: 417-272-0050

W: www.stonecountyhealthdepartment.com

2,000+ Nutrition Counseling
Sessions Annually

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) offers comprehensive nutrition support to eligible pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, as well as infants and children up to age five. WIC provides nutrition education tailored to individual needs, helping families make healthy food choices and establish lifelong healthy eating habits.

Participants receive access to nutritious foods designed to meet specific dietary needs, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, dairy, and protein-rich options. WIC also offers breastfeeding support through counseling and peer counseling programs, guidance on infant feeding, and referrals to other health and social services when needed.

By combining education, access to healthy foods, and personalized support, WIC empowers families to improve their nutrition, promote healthy growth and development, and prevent nutrition-related health issues.

MU Extension Health and Human Services Nutrition Education and Cooking Classes

P: 417-357-6812

Stone County Library

Group Cooking Classes

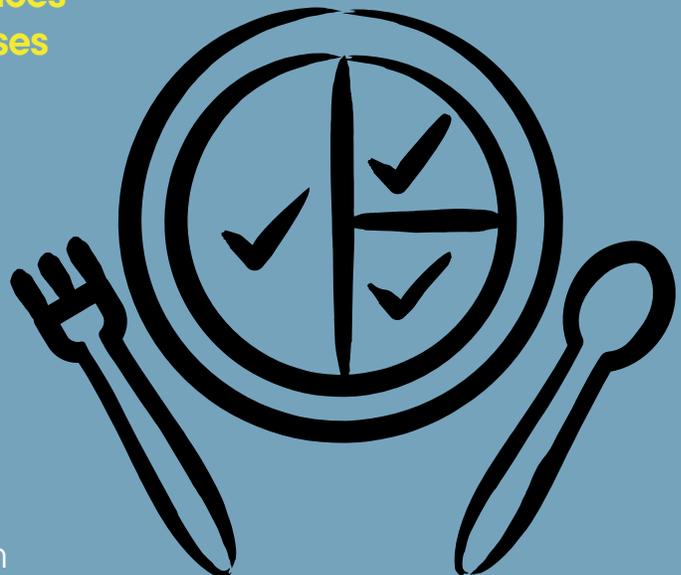
P: 417-357-6410

W: <http://www.stonecountylibrary.org/>

Stone County Health Department Group Nutrition Class

P: 417-272-0050

W: www.stonecountyhealthdepartment.com



OWTS (SEPTIC) COURSES

SEPTIC INSPECTOR

In Stone County individuals inspecting septic systems must complete education courses through Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. After completion of Inspector courses individuals must register with SCHD.

Course information:

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Program
Bureau of Environmental Health Services
Section for Environmental Public Health

P: 573-751-6095

W: <https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/onsite/>

E: OnsiteProgram@health.mo.gov

SEPTIC INSTALLER

In Stone County individuals installing septic systems must complete education courses through Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. After completion of Installer courses individuals must register with SCHD.

Course information:

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Program
Bureau of Environmental Health Services
Section for Environmental Public Health

P: 573-751-6095

W: <https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/onsite/>

E: OnsiteProgram@health.mo.gov

SOIL EVALUATOR

In Stone County individuals inspecting evaluating soil samples must complete education courses through Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. After completion of Evaluator courses individuals must register with SCHD.

Course information:

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Program
Bureau of Environmental Health Services
Section for Environmental Public Health

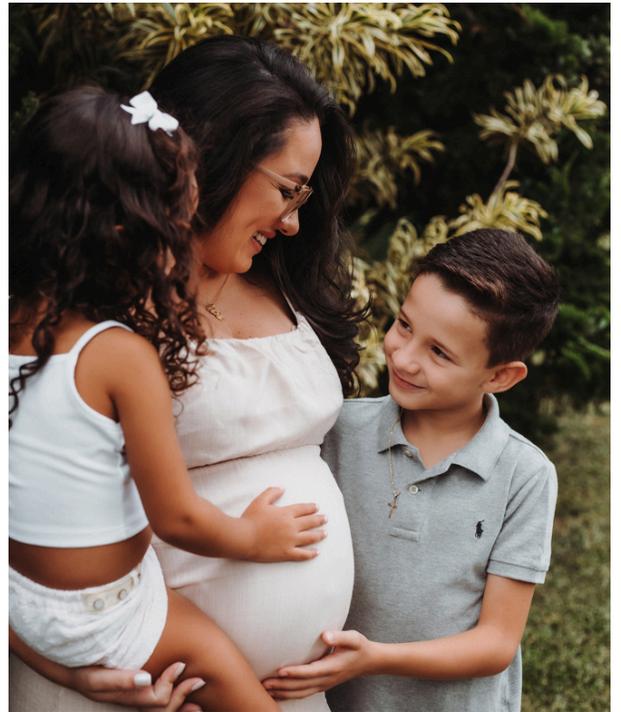
P: 573-751-6095

W: <https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/onsite/>

E: OnsiteProgram@health.mo.gov

PARENTHOOD AND PREGNANCY

A healthy pregnancy gives your baby the best start in life. Eating well, getting prenatal care, and staying active support both mom and baby. Raising a family in a caring, supportive environment helps children grow strong, healthy, and happy. Small daily choices like nutritious meals, love, and guidance make a big difference for your family's future. Pregnancy and Family Education can play a vital role in giving a family the best start.



Stone County Health Department Prenatal Education

A: 701 Old Wilderness Rd. Reeds Spring, MO 65737 or
109 East 4th Street, Galena, MO 65656

P: 417-272-0050

W: www.stonecountyhealthdepartment.com

Pregnancy Life Line

Prenatal Support and Parenting Classes

A: 19621 State Hwy 413

Branson West, MO 65737

P: 417-272-5210

W: <https://pregnancylifeline.com/>

Missouri Parents Act (MPACT)

Parenting Classes

P: 417-346-7331

The Brook Wellness Center Parenting Classes

A: 11016 E State Highway 76

Branson West, MO 65737

P: 417-527-8877

W: www.thebrookwellnesscenter.org

Parents as Teachers (PAT)

Parenting Education

Blue Eye

P: 417-779-4318

Crane

P: 417-723-5300

Galena

P: 417-357-6377

Reeds Spring

P: 417-272-3241

PUBLIC HEALTH



Public health plays a vital role in keeping communities safe, healthy, and thriving, but many people may not fully understand what it entails. Educating the community about public health helps people recognize its impact on daily life from preventing disease outbreaks and promoting healthy lifestyles to ensuring access to clean water, safe food, and emergency preparedness.

When communities understand public health, they are more likely to participate in programs, follow guidance during health emergencies, and make informed choices that improve their well-being. Education also fosters trust in public health systems, encourages collaboration between residents and health professionals, and empowers individuals to take an active role in protecting their own health and the health of their neighbors.

Raising awareness about public health strengthens communities, prevents illness, and supports a healthier future for everyone. SCHD offers a Public Health education course for the public.

STONE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEALTH 101

A: 701 OLD WILDERNESS RD, REEDS SPRING, MO 65737

P: 417-272-0050

W: WWW.STONECOUNTYHEALTHDEPARTMENT.COM

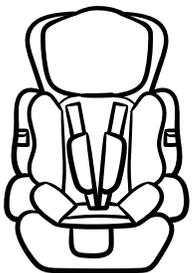


Safety

Safety and injury prevention education is a cornerstone of public health because it addresses one of the most preventable causes of death and disability worldwide—unintentional injuries. At its core, injury prevention education is about empowering communities through knowledge and behavior change. Public health initiatives that teach people how to recognize hazards and adopt safer practices can significantly decrease injury rates.

Education also supports equity in health outcomes. Injury risk is often higher in underserved or marginalized populations due to limited access to resources, information, and safe living conditions. Public health education programs that are culturally sensitive and community-driven help bridge these gaps, ensuring that safety information reaches those most at risk.

Finally, safety and injury prevention education fosters a culture of health and responsibility. When individuals understand and value safety, they become active participants in protecting themselves and others—whether by wearing seatbelts, using helmets, or creating safer workplaces and neighborhoods.



STONE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CAR SEAT SAFETY AND INSTALLATION

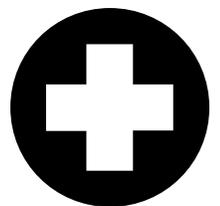
P: 417-272-0050

W: WWW.STONECOUNTYHEALTHDEPARTMENT.COM

STONE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HEPATITIS/HIV SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

P: 417-272-0050

W: WWW.STONECOUNTYHEALTHDEPARTMENT.COM



SENIOR HEALTH



Maintaining senior health is essential for ensuring quality of life, independence, and active participation in communities. Healthy seniors are more likely to remain engaged in social, cultural, and even economic activities, contributing valuable experience and wisdom. Preventive healthcare such as regular screenings, balanced nutrition, physical activity, and mental health support plays a key role in managing chronic conditions and reducing healthcare costs associated with age-related diseases.

4 OZARKS SENIORS

FOOD/NUTRITION, FOOT CARE AND INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

P: 417-559-3099

GIVE 5

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

P: 417-334-2928 X 102

1/3 of Stone County Residents
are over the age of 65

SEXUAL HEALTH

HIV TESTING
MENSTRUAL HEALTH
PAP SMEAR STI PREVENTION
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Sexual health is an essential part of overall well-being. It goes beyond the absence of disease and focuses on safety, respect, and healthy relationships. Prioritizing sexual health means having access to accurate information, preventive care, and resources like contraception, STI testing, and vaccinations.

Good sexual health also includes open communication, mutual consent, and respect in relationships. It empowers individuals to make informed choices, reduces the risk of infections and unintended pregnancies, and supports emotional and physical health. By promoting sexual health, communities can break down stigma, encourage education, and create supportive environments where individuals feel safe to seek care. Investing in sexual health strengthens not only individual lives but also the health of families and communities.

Stone County Health Department

Contraception and STI Counseling

Sexual Health Education Class

A: 701 Old Wilderness Rd. Reeds Spring, MO 65737 or

109 East 4th Street, Galena, MO 65656

P: 417-272-0050

W: www.stonecountyhealthdepartment.com

Pregnancy Life Line

STI Counseling

A: 19621 State Hwy 413 Branson West, MO 65737

P: 417-272-5210

W: <https://pregnancylifeline.com/>



101

STI Cases in Stone County in 2024

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Learning about the risks of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco helps people make safer, healthier choices. Substance abuse education prevents addiction, promotes healthy coping skills, and encourages those in need to seek help. By raising awareness, communities can protect youth, support recovery, and build safer, healthier futures.



In Missouri in 2022

65,000+
Adolescents (12-17) needed
substance abuse treatment

1,085,000+
Adults needed substance
abuse treatment

STONE COUNTY RECOVERY CENTER

Addiction Recovery Counseling and Education

A: 23628 Old Highway 160, Reeds Spring, MO 65737

P: 417-230-7628

BURRELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Addiction Recovery Counseling and Education

A: 18593 Bus. 13, STE. 104, Branson West, MO 65737

P: 417-761-5271

W: www.BurrellCenter.com

THE BROOKE WELLNESS CENTER

Substance Abuse Counseling and Education

A: 11016 E State Highway 76, Branson West, MO 65737

P: 417-527-8877

W: www.thebrookewellnesscenter.org

ADAPT

ALCOHOL DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION

P: 870-480-7401

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this community education plan lays the foundation for a healthier, more informed, and resilient community. By promoting accessible, evidence-based public health education, the plan empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their well-being and encourages collective responsibility for community health. Through partnerships with local organizations, consistent outreach, and culturally responsive programming, this initiative will strengthen public awareness, reduce health disparities, and foster lasting behavior change. Ultimately, the plan is not only an investment in education, but in the long-term health, equity, and vitality of the entire community.

Stone County Health Department welcomes public health input and education resources from any and all Stone County Community Partners. This document will be updated and revised annually.

With this signature the Stone County Health Department will adopt the Community Education Plan as written.

Board Of Trustees President

Date

CONTACT US



Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Stone County Health Department
Making Lives Better

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Galena, MO 65656