



Pettis County

HEALTH CENTER

PRESS RELEASE
Public Health Week
April 1-7, 2019

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

The topic for today is **Rural Health**

Rural communities face a range of health disparities, from higher burdens of chronic disease to limited access to primary care and prevention services. When compared to people living in urban areas, rural Americans face a greater risk of death from the five leading causes of death — heart disease, cancer, unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease and stroke. Suicide rates are also higher in rural America than in urban areas, with that gap growing steadily since the early 2000s.

Pettis County is considered a rural community, The Pettis County Health Center works closely with our county schools to ensure that they have the resources they need to stay up to date on immunizations and communicable disease trends. Also our public health staff will go onsite to provide flu shots to our local businesses and schools. Another program brings a nurse to the home of seniors who need a little extra assistance with medications or monitoring of the use equipment such as meters to check blood sugar. Not home health, but a little extra assistance.

Even though we are a rural county, Pettis County has the advantage of a strong environmental health program. Our Environmental Health Specialists investigate complaints, work to make sure that septic systems work properly so sewage does not contaminate water supplies, inspect restaurants, grocery stores, lodging facilities and child care facilities. These services go a long way to help keep our residents healthy.

The Pettis County Health Center provides familiar clinical services such as immunizations, low cost women's health services, physical exams for employment or school, STI diagnosis and treatment, TB testing and treatment, as well as blood pressure checks. Other services offered that may not be as familiar include lab tests to screen for heart, liver, and kidney diseases, and medication administration. A nurse is available every day at the Health Center to answer questions from the public.

#publichealthmatters

For additional information on any of the programs of the Pettis County Health Center, visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PettisCountyHealthCenter and website at www.pettiscountyhealthcenter.com or contact the Health Center at 660-827-1130.