

Potential Talking Points: Public Health –

Themes:

*Public Health: Good Health. Good Life

*Public Health: Better Health. Better Missouri.

- Public health officials work every day to help ensure good health and a better quality of life for the citizens of Missouri.
- When we get a notice from a local physician, hospital or school that someone has tested positive for a communicable disease like *E. coli*, chickenpox, or whooping cough (pertussis) and jump into action to ensure it isn't spread to you or your family (and constituents).
- When we share information with community partners about how they can help their employees have healthier lives.
- When we talk to senior adults about blood pressure, recommended immunizations, and healthy living.
- When we share information that helps empower people to manage their chronic diseases.
- When we respond to complaints to ensure sewage isn't surfacing where it shouldn't be.
- When we help a young mother succeed in breastfeeding her infant.
- When we listen to people's stories, heartaches, and health needs and can offer information, resources or referrals to meet their needs.
- When we teach families how to shop differently, cook differently and eat differently to improve their health.
- When we help save our community, our state and our nation money by providing preventive services at a fraction of the cost of acute care.

- We've got your back during flu season or during a disease outbreak when people need timely information on protecting themselves from illnesses and diseases.
- We've got your back when we work with local business people and restaurants to make sure they remain successful and customers are happy and healthy.
- When we educate restaurant employees about how to safely handle food to ensure you don't get sick with Hepatitis A or a foodborne illness that would cause vomiting and diarrhea.
- When we work every day with restaurants to help them move flammable liquids and hazardous chemicals away from the food they will serve you.
- We've got your back during emergencies and natural disasters to help ensure your community gets the services and information you need.
- When we spray your neighborhood to reduce mosquitoes that are always annoying and might even give you West Nile virus.
- When we vaccinate first responders, National Guard troops and volunteers so they don't get tetanus or other illness while doing the hard work of cleanup and rescue.
- We've got your back when we make sure child care providers are looking after your children in a safe, sanitary and healthy environment
- When we prevent children from going to a child care facility until they clean up the human waste on the floors, remove the bugs, fix broken furniture and ensure they will change the diapers of the kids you love.