

# Health Department Launches Upgraded Website

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*St. Charles County* – The St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment's website ranks as one of the most visited local public health agency websites in Missouri. With today's public launch of the department's new URL, <http://health.sccmo.org/health>, the widely visited website will now provide enhanced usability and extended offerings in a convenient and easy-to-navigate manner.

"The goal for this website is to provide information that allows users to easily discover services provided by the Department of Community Health and the Environment and to become more healthy members of the community," Interim Director Hope Woodson said. "Being structured with other St. Charles County government agencies gives public health an even greater opportunity to serve as an educational resource for residents, medical professionals and others; while enhancing the County's brand continuity."

On the new "home" pages for the department and its three divisions (Public Health, Environmental Public Health and Protection, and Humane Services), users can locate information in three different ways — through a "Table of Contents"-style navigation on the left, a rotating photo display and on-screen links. In addition, columns and buttons at the bottom of each home page and along the right side of every page within the site will direct users to additional information from the health department and its partners. One of these right column tabs offers users a convenient and direct link to reports, applications and additional information on specific topics; while another tab links to a calendar for upcoming programs, meetings and events.

The website is categorized by the department's divisions and programs. The Division of Public Health section describes services offered through the Immunization, WIC and STD clinics; provides an opportunity to obtain Missouri birth and death certificates; illustrates programs presented by the Health Education staff; and offers links to many online resources. In the Division of Environmental Health and Protection sections, users will find food service and solid-waste inspection report scores, information on recycling programs and the County's Re-Use Mercantile shops, mosquito control program activities, and the ability to download a variety of permit applications. Visitors to the Division of Humane Services pages can view pictures and videos of animals available through the Pet Adoption Center, learn about pet care services and discover volunteer opportunities. Media personnel seeking to interview staff or to learn about department programs can access this information through the Media/Public Information pages, and those clicking on the Volunteer section can discover opportunities to assist various programs.

In addition to content from the Department of Community Health and the Environment, the website provides joint information on natural disasters and public health threats through the Bioterrorism program's partnership with the St. Charles County Division of Emergency Management. With measures detailed for both individuals and organizations, users can find

information to protect them before, during and after an event. Historic information and further resources on earthquakes, floods and tornadoes within and around St. Charles County are also available.

The new website allows the department additional opportunities to grow its presence in social media. A monthly e-newsletter (Health eNews) offers a closer look at public health issues that impact residents and businesses in St. Charles County. Regular contributions to the department's Twitter account (@SCCHEALTH) provide health tips and news relevant to the community. The St. Charles County Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/StCharlesCountyMo](http://www.facebook.com/StCharlesCountyMo)) also supplies timely updates and access to County media releases. Links to view the latest posts or to begin following any or all of these outlets can be found in the Media/Public Information section of <http://health.sccmo.org/health>.

The St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment is committed to the protection and enhancement of health and the quality of life for all members of our community. For information on programs offered and to discover ways the Department assists our community, please visit <http://health.sccmo.org/health> or call 636.949.7400.

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