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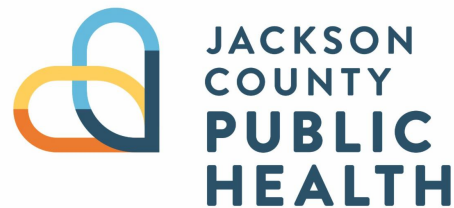
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JCPH and MCPL Partner to Celebrate 100 Years of Health Literacy

Exploring the Intersection of Health, Literacy, and Community Through Storytelling, Exhibits, and Books

Jackson County, MO: This fall, Jackson County Public Health (JCPH) is partnering with Mid-Continent Public Library (MCPL) to shine a light on the vital connection between health and literacy. This September, the two organizations invite the community to explore how access to reliable information can shape healthier, more informed lives.

"Public health and public libraries are both about access—access to information, services, and opportunity," said Ray Dlugolecki, MPH, Assistant Director of Jackson County Public Health. "This partnership honors our shared mission of helping people live informed, healthy lives."

"Accurate, reliable, and current health information is critical for everyone as we all seek to make the best decisions for ourselves and our loved ones," said MCPL Executive Director Aaron B. Mason. "That's why we're proud to partner with Jackson County Public Health as they explore their 100-year history and shine a light on important health issues today."

Community Heroes Story Time

Over the next few weeks, JCPH staff will take part in story time events at three MCPL branches, engaging families with stories, songs, and movement activities. Children of all ages are invited to meet local public health professionals and learn how they help keep our communities safe and thriving.

- **Thursday, Sept. 18 | 10–10:30 AM | MCPL Buckner** (19 E Jefferson St, Buckner)
- **Thursday, Sept. 25 | 10–10:30 AM | MCPL Raytown** (6131 Raytown Rd, Raytown)
- **Tuesday, Oct. 7 | 10:30–11 AM | MCPL Grandview** (12930 Booth Ln, Grandview)

Health Literacy Exhibits

During the month of September, library visitors can find interactive health literacy displays at 12 MCPL branches in Eastern Jackson County. Each display encourages visitors to ask critical questions and reflect on their own understanding of health.

Everything is Public Health: JCPH Staff Reading List

More than 15 members of JCPH staff across several departments have also curated a reading list highlighting diverse health topics and perspectives—from mental wellness to maternal care to public health history. The title is inspired by John Green's *Everything is Tuberculosis*, a book that shows how public health is intertwined with so many other systems and structures in our world.

The reading list is available this month through MCPL's catalog and includes staff recommendations for a range of audiences, including kids, parents, casual readers, and research lovers.

Celebrating a Century of Service

Since its founding in 1925, JCPH has grown from a small rural health unit to a modern agency serving hundreds of thousands of residents across Eastern Jackson County. From providing vaccinations and emergency preparedness to supporting early childhood development and harm reduction services, JCPH continues to evolve to meet the needs of the community.

"We're proud to mark this milestone by shining a light on the role that information, education, and literacy play in protecting public health," said Dlugolecki.

To learn more about JCPH's centennial campaign and upcoming events, visit jcph.org/100-years.

Images related to this announcement can be downloaded [here](#).

Special thanks to our MCPL partner branches: Blue Springs North, Blue Springs South, Buckner, Colbern Road Library Center, East Lee's Summit, Grain Valley, Grandview, Lee's Summit, Lone Jack, Oak Grove, Raytown, South Independence, East Independence, and North Independence.



JACKSON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

About Jackson County Public Health:

We offer services, provide programs, and advocate for policies so that all people have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy. Learn more at www.jcph.org.

Jackson County Public Health | 3651 NE Ralph Powell Rd | Lee's Summit, MO 64064 US

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