

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION



LGBT Health Awareness Week

Discrimination Leads to Poor Health Outcomes

The week of March 23-29 is set aside to raise awareness of health disparities and discrimination faced by people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people regularly encounter discrimination in employment, relationship recognition and insurance coverage. As a result, they are less likely to be able to afford vital health care than their straight and non-transgender neighbors. Fear of discrimination in healthcare settings can also prevent honest conversations with providers to identify health needs. For LGBT people of color, barriers to care and health disparities are even greater.

LGBT Health Equity at Scott County Health Department

To create a welcoming atmosphere for LGBT community members, particularly in SCHD's HIV/STD clinical services, community education, and outreach efforts, staff have received cultural competency training provided by Scott County and the Iowa Department of Public Health. Regular updates to demographic fields on forms and medical records have been made to acknowledge the diverse identities and orientations of clients. In practice, simply asking what name or pronouns someone prefers to use can build a strong rapport between the clinician and client, while honest and non-judgmental conversations related to HIV/STD risk factors and physical anatomy ensure that all clients receive appropriate testing, treatment and prevention counseling. Every experience an individual has with healthcare providers influences present and future health, so staff strives to provide positive, affirming service for LGBT clients that will lead to the best possible health outcomes.



OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department promotes, protects, and preserves health through leadership, services, education, and partnerships.

OUR VISION:

Scott County—
A safe and healthy
community.



SPECIAL EVENTS

- *Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom, 12:00 PM, Thursday, March 19, 2020.*
- *LGBT Health Awareness Week: March 23-29.*

Links

- **LGBT Health Awareness Week:**
<https://www.glsen.org/event/lgbt-health-awareness-week>
- **Scott County Tanning Facilities Ordinance:**
<https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/board/post/new-tanning-facilities-ordinance>

New Scott County Tanning Ordinance

In February, the Scott County Board of Supervisors approved a new ordinance governing tanning establishments in Scott County. For many years, the Scott County Health Department has conducted tanning inspections through an agreement with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). The change to a county tanning regulation came about due to administrative changes at IDPH. Adopting a local regulation enables the Scott County Health Department to continue to protect the health and safety of Scott County residents through inspections of tanning establishments.

A major change in this regulation requires parental consent for persons 16 and 17 years of age, and no tanning is allowed for persons 15 years of age or younger. Proof of age will require tanning operators to retain a copy of a driver's license or state issued identification for those under 18 as well as a copy of the parent's identification.

The new regulation increases inspections fees to \$70.00 per tanning unit (bed or booth) with a maximum of \$700.00 for ten units. The Scott County Health Department will soon begin annual inspections of tanning establishments under this new regulation.



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