



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Champaign-Urbana Public Health District

Public Health to Increase or Add Fees for Some Services

**New Fees Comparable to Those of Other County Health Departments;
No One Will Be Turned Away for Inability to Pay!**

On October 1, the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District and the Champaign County Public Health Department will increase or add fees for some medical and prevention services.

The divisions of Family Health, HIV/STD/TB Prevention & Management and Community Health Nursing will increase or introduce new fees for services such as adult vaccines, school and sports physicals, well child and sick child visits and the administration of flu and pneumonia shots and other vaccines.

Why is Public Health charging these fees?

After many months of study, surveys of some Public Health clients and a comparison of Champaign County fees with those charged by other health departments, the administration, division directors and both the C-U and County Boards of Health agreed that a fee increase was an acceptable move at this time. Here are some of the reasons for the change:

Most Public Health fees have been lower than those of other health departments and lower than the amounts reimbursed by Medicaid. If Public Health does not charge a fee for a service to clients who are Medicaid-eligible, it cannot collect any of the available

revenue for that service from Medicaid. (More than 90 percent of Family Health clients are Medicaid eligible.)

Public Health resources are extremely limited, but the demand for services keeps increasing. Here are the sources of Public Health funding:

- * GRANTS 61 percent
- * TAXES 28 percent
- * FEES 11 percent

Tax revenues received by Public Health are capped and so only rise with inflation. The agency is always looking for new grants, but most grants are tied to specific programs and cannot be used for other purposes. If Public Health is to continue to provide and expand its services, it must recover more of its expenses through fees.

Will the fee increase hurt or discourage our clients?

Public Health has always and will continue to make it very clear to patients and clients that they may receive any service offered, regardless of their ability to pay. Public Health staff will hand each client a bill at the time of service, but will not mail reminders to clients or remind them about unpaid bills when they return for other services.

Every fee sheet and every bill and every announcement about the fees will include this message:

NO ONE WILL BE DENIED ANY SERVICE DUE TO AN INABILITY TO PAY!

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