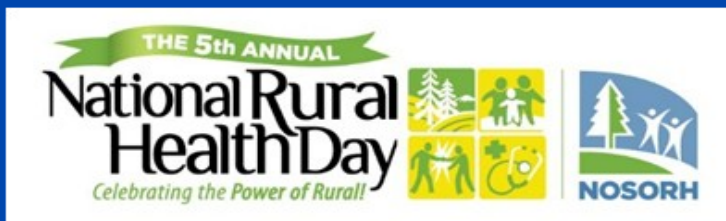
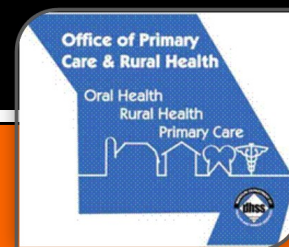




Rural Spotlight

3rd Quarter



November 19th is National Rural Health Day

National Rural Health Day allows NOSORH, State Offices of Rural Health and our partners to showcase Rural America and highlight the efforts of NOSORH, SORHs and others in addressing the unique health-care needs of rural communities.

Rural communities are wonderful places to live and work, which is why nearly 62 million people – nearly one in five Americans – call them home. These small towns, farming communities and frontier areas are places where neighbors know each other, listen to each other, respect each other and work together to benefit the greater good.

These rural communities also have unique healthcare needs. Today more than ever, rural communities must address accessibility issues, a lack of healthcare providers, the needs of an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens. And rural hospitals – which are often the economic foundation of their communities in addition to being the primary providers of care – struggle daily as declining reimbursement rates and disproportionate funding levels make it challenging to serve their residents.

National Rural Health Day is an opportunity to “Celebrate the Power of Rural” by honoring the selfless, community-minded, “can do” spirit of that prevails in rural America. But it also gives us a chance to bring to light the unique healthcare challenges that rural citizens face – and showcase the efforts of rural healthcare providers, State Offices of Rural Health and other rural stakeholders to address those challenges.

We know there is work to be done, but we also believe there is plenty to celebrate – and we invite you to join the celebration!



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Upcoming Observances

October

[Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#)

[Eye Injury Prevention Month](#)

[Health Literacy Month](#)

[National Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[National Bullying Prevention Month](#)

[National Dental Hygiene Month](#)

[National Down Syndrome Awareness Month](#)

[National Physical Therapy Month](#)

[Sudden Infant Death Syndrome \(SIDS\) Awareness Month](#)

4 - 10 [Mental Illness Awareness Week](#)

8 [National Depression Screening Day](#)

12 - 20 [Bone and Joint Health National Awareness Week](#)

16 [World Food Day](#)

18 - 24 [National Healthcare Quality Week](#)

19 - 23 [National Health Education Week](#)

25 - 31 [Respiratory Care Week](#)

November

[American Diabetes Month](#)

[COPD Awareness Month](#)

[Diabetic Eye Disease Month](#)

[Lung Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month](#)

[National Family Caregivers Month](#)

[National Healthy Skin Month](#)

[National Hospice Palliative Care Month](#)

[National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month](#)

20 [Great American Smokeout](#)

22 [International Survivors of Suicide Day](#)

23 - 29 [Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Awareness Week](#)

26 [National Family Health History Day](#)

December

[Safe Toys and Gifts Month](#)

1 [World AIDS Day](#)

7 - 13 [National Influenza Vaccination Week](#)



Quarterly Highlight

Missouri Rural Health Conference

The Missouri State Office of Rural Health (MORH) recognizes a Rural Health Champion every year, who advocates for rural health issues.

Nominations have been received and are listed on the MORH website at: (<http://www.health.mo.gov/living/families/ruralhealth/index.php>), to cast your votes online.

The Rural Health Champion Winner will also be posted on our website.



In celebration of ‘Missouri Rural Health Day’, the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health will be holding their annual **Missouri Rural Health Conference** on **November 18th**, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Columbia, MO, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Missouri State Office of Rural Health

Save The Date

8th Annual
MO Rural Health Conference

Small Agenda Calendar Icon

WEEK: Wednesday, November 18, 2013

WHERE: Hilton Garden Inn
3300 Vandiver Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

To schedule hotel reservations call: 573-814-9464.
A block of rooms have been set aside under the name: "Rural Health Conference".

Each participant is responsible for making and/or rescheduling reservations to avoid hotel charges.

Questions??

Contact: Melissa Truitt-Dyke or Lisa Branson at
Phone: 573-251-6441
Fax: 573-822-8146

E-mail: Melissa.Truitt-Dyke@health.mo.gov
Lisa.Branson@health.mo.gov




The conference will focus on raising awareness of unique healthcare issues being faced by rural Missourians as well as recognizing achievements that are being made in our rural communities. The registration form, agenda and meeting information is now available on our [Rural Health website](#).

Please forward this announcement to your agencies and community partners and encourage their participation in this worthwhile event!

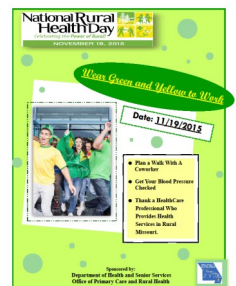


Looking for ways to :

Celebrate the Power of Rule?

Have a “Wear Yellow and Green” day!

Visit the [National Organization of State Office of Rural Health’s \(NOSORH\)](#) to learn more.



If you , your staff, a rural health facility or hospital in your Community, have received an award or recognition for a job well done; we would love to highlight their accomplishments in our Rural Spotlight Newsletter.

Please contact:
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Missouri State Office of Rural Health at:
lisa.branson@health.mo.gov or
(573) 526-2825