



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Broome County Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 5, 2017

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June is National Healthy Homes Month

(BINGHAMTON, NY) National Healthy Homes Month (NHHM) is being recognized in 2017 by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This month-long celebration offers an opportunity to learn more about housing and its impact on health.

“National Healthy Homes Month is an important call to action” said Chris Coddington, Director of Environmental Health at the Broome County Health Department. “Providing families with the resources they need to keep their families safe from potential health hazards such as lead-based paint and pests helps them to create the healthiest homes possible.”

A healthy home is one that provides a safe and healthy environment protecting the occupants from disease and injury. Almost 6 million U.S. homes have moderate to severe physical infrastructure problems – such as water leaks and intrusion; injury hazards; pests; and heating, plumbing, and electrical deficiencies. The Office of Lead and Hazard Control and Healthy Homes estimates that approximately 30 million homes have indoor environmental hazards, including physical safety hazards, lead-based paint, and pests.

“Most Americans spend up to 90 percent of their time indoors, exposing them to home health and safety hazards. These hazards have the potential to cause asthma and different types of personal injuries” said Mark Schuster, Health Program Director. “We have a local program through the Broome County Health Department that can help protect families from disease and injury in their homes.”

Schuster is the coordinator of the Healthy Neighborhoods Program at the Broome County Health Department. This is a free program committed to creating healthier neighborhoods one home at a time by reducing environmental health and safety issues in the home. The Healthy Neighborhoods Program provides in-home safety visits with free safety supplies for qualifying Broome County residents.

“We address issues such as asthma, carbon monoxide poisoning, radon, lead poisoning, mold, fire and burn safety and more,” said Schuster, “We want to make your home a healthy and safe place for you and your family to live.”

The Health Department also has programs to address lead hazards in homes for families with young children living in older housing. The goal is to protect children from ever being exposed to lead because lead can cause irreversible damage to a child's health and development. There is grant funding available for eligible families.

For more information on the Healthy Neighborhoods or Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs you can call the Broome County Health Department at (607) 778-2847.

For more information on HUD and Healthy Homes Month, visit www.hud.gov.