



Public Health
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**Boone County
Health Department**

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF 2020 COMMUNITY FARMERS' MARKET AND WELLNESS FAIR

BOONE COUNTY- The Boone County Health Department (BCHD) has historically hosted a Farmers' Market and Wellness Fair every July as a partnership with the Boone County Administration, the City of Belvidere, Gallagher Williams-Manny, and Community Action Agency of Boone & Winnebago Counties.

This year, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and its effect on the local community, BCHD has made the tough decision to cancel this summer activity for 2020. "We have hosted a Farmers' Market for the past eleven years and the full Wellness Fair for the last four. The feedback from the community has been tremendous", said Amanda Mehl, Boone County Health Department's Public Health Administrator. "This year, due to the risk of spread of COVID-19 here in Boone County, it is not safe for large in person gatherings at this time. Since we are concerned that this risk will continue into the summer and that the planning efforts for this event usually start at the beginning of the calendar year, we felt that cancelling this event, although a disappointing choice, was our only option."

-More -

BCHD is currently working closely with local farmers to develop safe produce distribution methods for this summer. The Health Department hopes to bring the market back in the Summer 2021.

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About The Boone County Health Department

The Boone County Health Department is a local health department committed to serving the health needs of its almost 54,000 residents. Established in 1966, we promote and protect the health of the people and the communities in Boone County, right here, where they live, work, learn and play.