

PORTAGE COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

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Press Release
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Media Contact
Becky Lehman

Portage County Health Department holds Community Bike Safety Event

The Portage County Health Department is kicking off summer by hosting a community event focusing on bicycle safety. The Community Bike Safety Event is **Thursday, May 21st from 4:00 to 6:00pm** at the Portage County Health Department at 705 Oakwood Street, Ravenna. This event is free and open to kids of all ages. Kids under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

“This event is different than a traditional health fair or education session that we typically have”, states Becky Lehman, director of health education. “We are encouraging the community to bring their bikes to the health department and then ride them on the Portage Hike and Bike trail to Chestnut Hills Park”. The health department is hosting a hands-on health fair at Chestnut Hills Park with partnering community agencies participating including: Portage County WIC, Family and Community Services, Kent State University Center of Nutrition Outreach, Portage County Safe Communities, Portage Learning Centers, American Heart Association, and Robinson Memorial Hospital.

The event will provide free bike helmets for children who are in need of one (while supplies last). Health department staff will also provide free education to parents and guardians on fitting their child’s bike helmets correctly. Kent Cycle will be providing free bike checks for participants of the event.

According to the Ohio AAP, 75 percent of bike-related fatalities would be prevented with a helmet, and helmet use can reduce the risk of health injury by 85 percent. The health department received bike helmets from the Ohio AAP Put a Lid on It! program to help promote bike helmet safety awareness.

For questions regarding the event, contact Ali at 330-296-9919, ext. 129.

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