



DATE: February 1, 2018
TO: DeKalb County News Media
FROM: Lisa Gonzalez
Public Health Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Together for a Healthier DeKalb County 2018, Wants You to Participate in the Community Health Needs Assessment

Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals, DeKalb County Health Department and community stakeholders are once again collaborating on a project to assess the health needs of the residents of DeKalb County through the partnership, Together for a Healthier DeKalb County.

As part of the assessment process, the two DeKalb nonprofit hospitals and the county health department asks all county residents to help identify pressing community health needs through an online community survey. This online survey is an integral part of the community health needs assessment conducted once every three years by NM KishHealth System and Valley West and once every five years by the DeKalb County Health Department. Results of this survey will be combined with existing federal, state and local health data and will help the hospitals and county health department determine which health priorities they should address over the next three years. Those priorities will be announced in late 2018.

The online survey is designed to measure residents' perceptions of health care delivery, access and health practices. The confidential online survey uses standardized questions, is available in English and Spanish and will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Willingness of DeKalb County residents to participate will support the hospitals, the health department and other community agencies in the development of vital programs and services which will advance the promotion of health.

The survey will be open beginning Thursday, February 1, 2018. Residents can take the survey online by accessing the DeKalb County Health Department's website at **www.dekalbcounty.org/health**.

Printed copies of the survey also will be available to various community organizations to distribute to residents who don't have access to a computer. Printed copies are available at the DeKalb County Health Department, 2550 N. Annie Glidden Road, DeKalb from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Continued Together for a Healthier DeKalb County 2018, Wants You to Participate in the Community Health Needs Assessment

In 2015, the two hospitals completed their community health assessments identifying the following health priorities: Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, Maternal and Child Health and Diabetes. These priorities led to many community efforts including partnering with the DeKalb County Health Department to educate the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) population on the effects of smoking during pregnancy and the effects of secondhand smoke, as well as media campaigns focused on the effects of secondhand smoke and smoke-free homes and cars. They also collaborated on promoting and implementing Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH®) into school districts' curriculum. CATCH® has been implemented at 13 schools in DeKalb County. The hospitals also began conducting Know Your Numbers appointments with expanded appointments to include coaching sessions.

For more information, contact: Together for a Healthier DeKalb County at (815) 748-2468 or healthiertogether@dekalbcounty.org.

###