

The Noble County Health Monitor

A monthly publication sponsored by the Noble County Health Department

Pediatric Transplant Awareness

National Pediatric Transplant Week takes place the last full week of National Donate Life Month in April. It focuses on the powerful message of ending the pediatric transplant waiting list. Pediatric transplants differ slightly from other organ donations — as organ size is critical to a successful transplant, children often respond better to child-sized organs.

How many children require organ transplants?

In 2023, more than 1,900 children received lifesaving transplants, matched from nearly 900 pediatric organ donors. Currently, there are more than 2,100 children on the national transplant waiting list. More than 500 children waiting for a donor organ are between 1 and 5 years old. While the donors ranged in age from newborns to 17, most were between 11 and 17 years old — though in 2023, 99 pediatric organ donors were under the age of 12 months. Every year, thousands of pediatric cornea and tissue donors help restore sight and save and heal lives.

What causes the need for pediatric transplantation?

Many of the conditions that prompt the need for transplant can occur as early as infancy — including heart issues like restrictive cardiomyopathy or liver diseases like biliary atresia. Other issues surrounding injuries or diseases may also occur during childhood. Information on specific conditions for pediatric transplants can be found at UPMC Hillman Center for Pediatric Transplantation and the Mayo Clinic, which also list the types of conditions that require pediatric organ donations and the specialists involved in these processes.

How does the pediatric transplant waiting list work?

Organ size is critical to a successful transplant as children often respond better to child-sized organs. Although pediatric candidates have their own unique scoring system, children are essentially first in line for pediatric donor organs. As with the national transplant waiting list, the size of the recipient's body is taken into account along with the size of the donor organ in order to make the best possible match of donor to recipient. Very small children most often receive donations from other young people — although older children and adults can also be a good match. It's also possible for children to receive deceased or living donations of partial organs, such as a partial liver transplant.



April Issue
2024

April 15- Tax Day

April 22 - Earth Day

*Stay
committed to
your decision,
but stay
flexible in your
approach.
-Tony Robbins*

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Autism Awareness Month

Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum condition" that affects people differently and to varying degrees. While there is currently no known single cause of autism, early diagnosis helps a person receive the support and services that they need, which can lead to a quality life filled with opportunity. In 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a report that concluded that the prevalence of autism had risen to 1 in every 59 – twice as great as the 2004 rate of 1 in 125. The spotlight shining on autism, as a result, has opened opportunities for the nation to consider how to serve people on the autism spectrum and their families. For more information please visit, autism-society.org.

For more health information contact: Noble County Health Department
740-732-4958
www.noblecohd.org

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every April, the Children's Bureau observes National Child Abuse Prevention Month to raise public awareness of child abuse and neglect, recommit efforts and resources aimed at protecting children and strengthening families, and promote community involvement through activities that support the cause. To prevent child sexual abuse, it is important to keep the focus on adult responsibility while teaching children skills to help them protect themselves. Consider the following tips:

- Learn about your child's activities and people with whom they are involved with.
- Make sure your children know that they can talk to you about anything.
- Teach children accurate names of private body parts and the difference between touches that are "okay" and "not okay."
- Empower children to make decisions about their bodies by allowing them age-appropriate privacy and encouraging them to say "no" when they do not want to touch or be touched by others—even in nonsexual ways.
- Teach children to take care of their own bodies (e.g., bathing or using the bathroom).
- Educate children about the difference between good secrets (such as birthday surprises) and bad secrets (those that make the child feel unsafe or uncomfortable).
- Monitor children's use of technology, including cell phones, social networking sites, and messaging, review their friends lists regularly.
- If your child tells you that he or she has been abused, stay calm, listen carefully, and never blame the child. Thank your child for telling you. Report the abuse right away.

To report child abuse or neglect, please contact Childhelp USA at 1.800.4 A Child (1.800.422.4453).



Join Noble County in raising awareness about
child abuse and neglect on

4-20-24

At the Noble County Walking Trail

All events and activities are FREE for families!*

5K Race - Going the Distance for Kids

Registration begins at 7 AM, race begins at 8 AM

To Pre-Register and order a commemorative T-Shirt please contact Sami Hull at
(740) 732 - 5681, Hull.388@osu.edu or <https://go.osu.edu/funrunwalk>

Honor Walk

To honor victims of child abuse and neglect
Immediately Following 5K

After Party

Immediately Following 5K
Food Trucks!

Free Activities and Treats!

Meet local agencies who care about children!

Email amanda.herron@jfs.ohio.gov to Register as a vendor

*Food trucks and race T-shirts excluded

IBS Awareness

April is Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) awareness month. IBS is a chronic, often debilitating, gastrointestinal (GI) disorder with symptoms that include abdominal pain, bloating, and altered bowel behaviors, such as constipation and/or diarrhea, or alternating between the two. It is the most common GI condition worldwide. IBS can begin in childhood, adolescence, or adulthood and can resolve unexpectedly for periods throughout an individual's lifespan, recurring at any age. In most Western countries, IBS seems to occur more frequently in women than in men, but the reason for this remains unclear.

Although each person has a different IBS experience within the range of known symptoms, this condition can significantly decrease a person's quality of life. Despite this, only about 40% of those who have IBS symptoms seek help from a physician. IBS frequently affects individuals of working age, which can lead to an increased financial burden when they are too sick to work or are not able to perform as well while at work.

A person who has IBS likely has a sensitive digestive system with heightened reactivity, so that the GI tract responds quite differently to normal gut stimuli, such as the passage of solids, gas, and fluid through the intestines. Pain manifests in many ways with IBS. It can be ongoing or episodic, present sharply and resolve rapidly, occur occasionally or frequently, and move from one location in the bowel to another very quickly. Digestive pain often occurs following a meal and can last for hours. If are affected by any of these symptoms contact a healthcare provider.

Noble County Community BabyQ



**MUST LIVE IN NOBLE COUNTY AND BE PREGNANT OR
POST-PARTUM UP TO 6 MONTHS**

- Giveaways
- Door Prizes
- Refreshments
- Community Resources



**Thursday,
May 16, 2024**



6 - 8 PM



**Noble County
Community Center**



**Must Register
Call 740-732-4958**

Come and be showered with the education you need to raise a happy, healthy, and safe child! This FREE event offers parents a chance to learn from local vendors about the services in our area and learn more about growth, development, and child health.

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