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**HEALTH**  
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### **National Public Health Week recognized April 4-10**

CHARLEVOIX – This week is National Public Health Week (April 4-10), and President Barack Obama has issued a proclamation recognizing the value of public health and its importance in ensuring happy and healthy lives for generations to come.

“During National Public Health Week, we join together to enhance public health -- the foundation of our security and well-being -- here at home and around the world,” wrote Obama. “By supporting health professionals and embracing our obligations to promote public health and protect our planet, we can uphold our shared responsibility to preserve the promise of a happy and healthy life for our children and grandchildren.”

Americans are living 20 years longer than their grandparents’ generation – thanks largely to the work of public health. Still, people in many other high-income countries live longer and suffer fewer health issues than Americans do. This is the defining challenge of today’s generation, a challenge that the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is uniquely positioned to help overcome.

For National Public Health Week 2016, the Health Department invites community members to join Generation Public Health. Generation Public Health, an initiative of the American Public Health Association, is rallying around a goal of making the U.S. the Healthiest Nation in One Generation — by 2030.

Changing the nation’s health means ensuring conditions that give everyone the opportunity to be healthy. The Generation Public Health campaign outlines eight steps to achieve this goal: build a nation of safe, healthy communities; help all young people graduate from high school; increase economic mobility and better health; achieve social justice and health; give everyone a choice of healthy food; prepare for the health effects of climate change; provide quality health care for everyone; and strengthen public health infrastructure and capacity.

To learn more about Generation Public Health and National Public Health Week, visit [www.nphw.org](http://www.nphw.org).

For more information about the Health Department’s public health services, visit [www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org) or call **(800) 432-4121**. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties.

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