

Government Fact Sheet

It is the responsibility of our government to protect the public's health.

- Throughout the developed world, nations engage in the practice of pollution control with the intention of protecting human health against the effects of harmful contaminants in food, water, and air.
- State governments require children to be vaccinated as a condition of attending school to reduce spread of communicable disease.
- Public health departments have authority to detain persons with communicable disease to prevent disease transmission.
- Local health departments are charged with development of food safety codes and conducting routine restaurant inspections to prevent foodborne illness.
- Federal law requires use of universal precautions (gloves, etc.) by health care providers to reduce transmission of disease.
- Federal law requires installation of sprinkler systems in workplaces to stop spread of fires and reduce death and disability.
- Federal and state hazardous material transport laws have been passed to decrease impact of potential spills.
- Secondhand smoke has been classified as a Class A carcinogen by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. There is no safe level of secondhand smoke.
- Eighty-eight (88) percent of residents agree that all Marion County workers should be protected from exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace. This includes nearly 67% of self-identified regular smokers.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Public Health Practice Program Office.
2. Smokefree Indiana. "Smokefree Indiana Marion County Report – 2004"

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