

For the Health of It

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Clark County Health Department Newsletter

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www.clarkhealth.net

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Notable News

Welcome to our new and improved newsletter! Here you will find the same great information, in a new color and format. The goal was to improve contrast, visibility, and ease of screen reader use. If you have any concerns or issues with the new format, please let us know by calling the main office line at 812-282-7521.

Harm Reduction / Syringe Services Program is still operational at Exit 0/ Maple Street Baptist Church.

- Monday- Wednesday and Friday 1-3 pm (excluding holidays).
- Indiana ID is required.
- Exchange is 1 for 1. You must bring back returns.

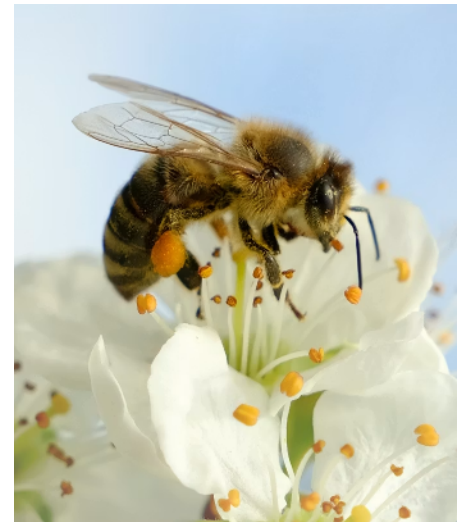
The program is still run by the Clark County Health Department.

August 15th National Honey Bee Day

On National Honey Bee Day, do your part to save the bees. Here are some actions you can take to help preserve bees and other pollinators:

- ▶ Plant nectar-bearing flowers such as marigolds or sunflowers for decorative purposes.
- ▶ Buy honey from your nearest local beekeeper.
- ▶ Raise awareness among children on the importance of bees.
- ▶ Set up a pollinator farm in your garden.
- ▶ Preserve old meadows, which have more diverse flowers and nectar-bearing plants.
- ▶ Cut grass only after plants like dandelions and clover have finished blooming.
- ▶ Build a bee bath with shallow water and pebbles.
- ▶ Use pesticides that do not harm bees, and spray them in calm weather, early in the morning or late at night, when bees return to their nests or hives.

One out of every three bites of food that you eat depends on animal pollinators, like bees.
USDA



There are more than 3,600 species of bees in the U.S. and approximately 70% of these bees nest in the ground. USDA

September 16th World Ozone Day

Located 10 to 30 miles above Earth, the stratosphere ozone layer absorbs 97% to 99% of the sun's damaging ultraviolet (UV) radiation. This protection prevents sunburns, reduces the risk of skin cancer and cataracts, and protects ecosystems from DNA damage and helps to stabilize the climate.

This ozone layer is being depleted primarily because human-made chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, and other ozone-depleting substances (ODS) release chlorine and bromine atoms into the atmosphere. These atoms break down ozone molecules faster than they can be naturally replaced, thinning the ozone layer.

The 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was established to protect the ozone layer and safeguard human health and the environment from overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation due to ozone depletion.

Over two million tons of (ODS) have been phased out under the Montreal Protocol since its adoption.

How can you help?

- Use energy-efficient appliances and reduce electricity consumption.
- Properly maintain and dispose of refrigerators, air conditioners, and other cooling equipment.
- Avoid products containing ozone-depleting substances.
- Support environmental policies that protect the ozone layer.
- Choose environmentally friendly transportation options

For more info: [www.epa.gov/ozone-layer-protection/
frequently-asked-questions-about-ozone-layer](http://www.epa.gov/ozone-layer-protection/frequently-asked-questions-about-ozone-layer)



**38% of the
U.S.
population is
regularly
exposed to
unhealthy
levels of
ozone,
making
breathing
difficult for
tens of
millions of
vulnerable
individuals.
American
Lung
Association**

One Health: What do we Do?

Local health departments play an important role in putting the One Health approach into action by protecting the health of people, animals, and the environment at the community level. Everyday, we perform such services, even if they are not labeled as “One Health.” So, what do we do?

- **Disease Prevention and Control**

Monitor and respond to infectious diseases, including those that can spread between animals and humans (zoonotic diseases).

Investigate illnesses and track trends to identify potential environmental or animal-related sources.

- **Immunization Programs**

Offer vaccines for children and adults to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

Educate the public about vaccine-preventable illnesses, including those that may originate from animals.

Support school immunization programs to reduce disease transmission in the community.

- **Animal and Human Health Connections**

Work with owners and animal control by responding to animal bites and educating the community on rabies prevention.

Provide guidance on safe interactions with pets and wildlife.

- **Environmental Health Services**

Monitor water quality to ensure safe drinking and recreational water.

Address environmental hazards such as mold, sewage, and waste disposal.

Promote safe and healthy housing conditions.

- **Food Safety and Protection**

Conduct restaurant and food service inspections.

Investigate foodborne illness outbreaks.

Educate the public and food handlers on safe food practices.



One Health: What do we Do?

- **Community-Based Healthcare Programs**

Provide Community Paramedicine and Mobile Health services.

Help residents manage chronic conditions at home which will reduce unnecessary hospital visits.

Support vulnerable populations, including older adults and those with limited access to care by connecting them to health and social resources.

- **Health Education and Community Outreach**

Educate residents about how environmental factors (air, water, climate) affect their health.

Promote healthy behaviors that benefit individuals and communities.

Share information on topics like safe sleep, substance use prevention, and environmental protection.

- **Emergency Preparedness and Response**

Prepare for public health emergencies such as disease outbreaks and natural disasters.

Respond to urgent environmental hazards.

Coordinate with social services, emergency services, and environmental agencies.

Your local health department demonstrates that One Health is not just a concept, it is a service we provide daily. Whether it is ensuring safe food and water, protecting the environment, preventing the spread of disease, or in educating the community, these efforts show how connected human, animal, and environmental health truly are. Our disciplines work together to create healthier and more resilient communities in Clark County.





Back to School Community Health Fair

July 11th, 2026
9:00 to Noon

201 E 15th Street
Jeffersonville, IN

For more information: 812-288-6451 Ext:2135

- Free backpacks and school supplies
- School immunizations
- Health screenings
- Dental screenings
- Hearing tests for both adults and children
- Train rides and games
- Family resources

Over 30 Vendors!



Mental Health: Brain Games. Riddles and Brain teasers edition

1. There are five sisters in a room. Anne is reading a book, Margaret is cooking, Kate is playing chess, and Marie is doing the laundry. What's the fifth sister doing?
2. How can you throw a ball as hard as you can and have it come back to you, even if it doesn't bounce off anything? There is nothing attached to it, and no one else catches or throws it back to you.
3. You wake up on a frozen lake in an isolated region, 50 meters away from the shore. The surface of the lake is frictionless, and no grip of any kind can be attained over it. You find just your mobile phone in your pocket, but when you take it out to call for help, you realize there is no reception.
If there is no wind force to help you escape, what are you going to do to avoid freezing to death?
4. Which is the least spoken language in the world?
5. Sally: "I know every song in the World."
Paul: "It can't be. I bet you don't know any songs which contain the name of my daughter – Beatrice."
Sally accepted the bet and won. Which song did she sing?

ANSWERS:

1. Playing chess with Kate! You can't play chess by yourself, can you?
2. Throw the ball up in the air.
3. Throw your phone as hard as you can. Thanks to Newton's third law of motion and the frictionless lake, you will start sliding away toward shore.
4. Sign language
5. Sally sang the "Happy Birthday" song.

Science spotlight: Deficient executive control in transformer attention

Suketu Chandrakant Patel, Hongbin Wang, Jin Fan

Abstract

Although transformers in large language models (LLMs) effectively implement a self-attention mechanism that has revolutionized natural language processing, they lack an explicit architecture for the executive control of attention found in humans, which is essential for resolving conflicts and selecting relevant information in the presence of competing computations and is critical for adaptive behavior. To investigate the impact of this limitation in LLMs, we employed the classic color Stroop task, widely regarded as the gold standard, to test the executive control of attention in these models. Our results revealed a typical conflict effect of underperformance in terms of accuracy in the incongruent condition (e.g. naming the color of the word RED in blue) compared with the congruent condition (e.g. naming the color of the word RED in red), in short word lists, similar to human performance. However, as the length of the word lists increased, performance on the incongruent condition degraded toward near-total performance collapse, even as accuracy in the congruent condition remained excellent, and word reading (e.g. reading the word RED [in red] or RED [in blue], ignoring the color) was near-perfect. These findings demonstrate that transformer attention mechanisms are fundamentally limited in their capacity for conflict resolution across extended contexts, and a failure to up-regulate control adaptively under rising interference. We suggest that incorporating executive control mechanisms akin to those in biological attention is crucial for achieving artificial general intelligence.

Summary via Neuroscencenews.com: A new cognitive evaluation of artificial intelligence has unmasked a fundamental, systemic flaw running through large language model (LLM) attention mechanisms. By administering the classic psychological “Stroop task” to premier frontier models, including GPT-5, Claude Opus 4.1, and Gemini 2.5, researchers exposed a severe cognitive collapse in machine decision-making.

While biological human brains routinely suppress automatic impulses to maintain stable accuracy across long data sequences, transformer-based machine attention degrades rapidly under length pressure, dropping to near-zero accuracy when forced to inhibit its primary training instincts.

Article link: <https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgag149>

Summary Link: <https://neuroscencenews.com/llm-stroop-task-cognitive-attention-30801/>

Administration/Vital Records/Environmental

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1201 Wall Street Jeffersonville IN 47130

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HIV/STD Program Office

Phone 812-288-2706

Office Hours

Monday - Friday:

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday, Sunday:

CLOSED

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Clark County Health Department