

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION * 2026 ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

November 3-4, 2026 * Starved Rock, Oglesby, IL

MAIN CONFERENCE - DAY 1: Tuesday, November 3rd

TIME	TOPIC	CEU	ROOM
8:30AM	Welcoming Message – Lenore Killam, IEHA Interim President	-	Starved Rock
9AM SESSION			
9:00AM	Keynote Speaker: Sameer Vohra, IDPH Director	1.0	Starved Rock
10AM SESSIONS			
10-11:30AM	<i>You're Gonna Have to Talk to People</i> – Carolyn White, FDA (FOOD)	1.5	Starved Rock
10:00AM	<i>Demystification of Septicization</i> – Emerson Roden, Tazwell County (ONSITE)	1.0	Lasalle
10:00AM	<i>Working Smarter, Not Harder in EH</i> – Christopher Walker, Michéle Samarya-Timm, NEHA (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Utica
10:00AM	<i>Navigating Mobile Food in Chicago: The Do's & Don'ts of First-Class "Roach Coaches"</i> – Matithia Eiland, Chicago Public Health (FOOD)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
11AM SESSIONS			
11:30AM-12:00PM	<i>NEHA Updates</i> – Justin Dwyer, NEHA Regional Vice President, Region 6 (GENERAL EH)	0.5	Starved Rock
11:00AM	<i>Desktop to Dig Site: A Guide to Onsite Wastewater Approval</i> – Mitchell Housewright, Adams County (ONSITE)	1.0	Lasalle
11:00AM	<i>Tiny Tummys, Big Responsibility: Public Health Preparedness for Breastfeeding</i> – Michelle Compton, Katherine Macintyre, Lisha Streitmatter, Casey Littlefield, Peoria City/County Health Dept (FOOD)	1.0	Utica
11:AM	<i>Norovirus: Small Virus, Massive Impact</i> – Amy Calhoun, Safe Food Handler Corp (FOOD)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN – 12:00PM-1:30PM (Guided hike offered)			
1:30PM SESSIONS			
1:30PM	<i>Special Process Compliance: Observations and Challenges from the Field</i> – Colleen Nyland, Kane County Health Dept (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
1:30PM	<i>Back to the Basics: Understanding Wells</i> – Sarah Pozzi, Peoria City/County Health Dept (WATER)	1.0	Lasalle
1:30PM	<i>Beyond the Application: Strategies for Successful Grant Writing</i> – Renae Ballard, Peoria City/County Health Dept (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Utica
1:30PM	<i>New Food Safety Recipe</i> – Chirag Bhatt, CHB Food Safety Consulting (FOOD)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
2:30PM SESSIONS			
2:30PM	<i>How Refrigeration Units Are Tested & Why It Matters</i> – Derick Deland, NSF (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
2:30PM	<i>Zebrafish as Sentinels of Water Pollution: Understanding the Health Effects of Environmental Contaminants</i> – Maria Bondesson Bolin, U of I Springfield (WATER)	1.0	Lasalle
2:30PM	<i>Food Fraud in the Kitchen</i> – Justin Dwyer, Peoria City/County Health Dept (FOOD)	1.0	Utica
2:30PM	<i>Quality Water Starts Here: Mapping and Mitigating Risk</i> – Lillia Blasius, Water Quality Research Foundation (WATER)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
AFTERNOON BREAK – 3:30-3:45PM			
3:45PM SESSIONS			
3:45PM	<i>Fundamentals of Cleaning & Sanitizing Food Surfaces & Food Equipment</i> – Erik Kurdelak, Madison Chemical (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
3:45PM	<i>Water Topic</i> (WATER)	1.0	Lasalle
3:45PM	<i>AI is here - Make it Real for Your Agency</i> – Cameron Garrison, HS GovTech USA (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Utica
3:45PM	<i>Multi Agency Approach to Combat a Surge of Unpermitted Pop-up Street Vendors</i> - Ana Lopez Francisco, Maxwell Lloyd, Pima County Health (FOOD)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
5:00PM	IEHA AWARDS & RECEPTION		

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MAIN CONFERENCE - DAY 2: Wednesday, November 4th

TIME	TOPIC	CEU	ROOM
8:45AM	Welcoming Message – Colleen Nyland, IEHA President	-	Starved Rock
9AM SESSIONS			
9:00AM	<i>The Dilemma of Cut Plant Foods: Evaluating the Risk</i> – Sandra Long, Town of Addison, TX Environmental Health Division (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
9:00AM	<i>Using the New Coliform Flow Chart</i> – Jennifer Krick, IDPH (WATER)	1.0	Lasalle
9:00AM	<i>The Menu Game (First Session)</i> – Corine Peplinski, IDPH (FOOD)	1.0	Utica
9:00AM	<i>Virtual Session</i>	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
10AM SESSIONS			
10:00AM	<i>Wait, is This a Food? Navigating the CFR's</i> – Carolyn White, FDA (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
10:00AM	<i>Update on PFAS in Drinking Water</i> – Eric Yeggy, Water Quality Association (WATER)	1.0	Lasalle
10:00AM	<i>The Menu Game (Second Session)</i> – Corine Peplinski, IDPH (FOOD)	1.0	Utica
10AM-12PM	<i>Pool Session, Dori Bugajski, IDPH (GENERAL EH)</i>	2.0	Pool Deck
10:00AM	<i>Getting Smart About Softening: Water Quality Benefits and Environmental Stewardship</i> – Bryanna Poczatek, Water Quality Association (WATER)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
11AM SESSIONS			
11:00AM	<i>Building an Understanding of the Poultry & Rabbit Exemption</i> – Dayle Davis, IDOA (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
11:00AM	<i>Data Centers & Groundwater in Illinois: Evaluating Water Demand and Potential Aquifer Impacts</i> – Daniel Abrams, Illinois State Water Survey (WATER)	1.0	Lasalle
11:00AM	<i>Student Poster Session (GENERAL EH)</i>	1.0	Utica
11:00AM	<i>Inside Illinois Government: The Legislative Process & State of the State</i> – Chris Lowery, Governmental Affairs Consultant, IPHA (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN – 12:00PM-1:30PM (Guided hike offered)			
1:30PM SESSIONS			
1:30PM	<i>IDPH Food Program Updates</i> – Darrah Dunlap, IDPH (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
1:30PM	<i>Out of Sight, Not Out of Mind: Septic Systems and Food Safety</i> – Sarah Pozzi, Peoria City/County Health Department (ONSITE)	1.0	Lasalle
1:30PM-3:30PM	<i>Wanna Try Your Hand at Understanding the Root Cause of an Outbreak?</i> – Erin Boester, Madison County Health Dept (FOOD)	2.0	Utica
1:30-3:30PM	<i>Pool Session, Dori Bugajski, IDPH (GENERAL EH)</i>	2.0	Pool Deck
1:30PM	<i>Needle(s) in a Haystack: Norovirus Illness Association with Raw Oyster Consumption</i> – Clay Callaway, Maricopa County Health Dept (FOOD)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
2:30PM SESSIONS			
2:30PM	<i>Thinking Through Cottage Food</i> – Justin Dwyer, Peoria City/County Health Dept (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
2:30PM	<i>Onsite topic (ONSITE)</i>	1.0	Lasalle
2:30PM	<i>Virtual Session</i>	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
AFTERNOON BREAK – 3:30-3:45PM			
3:45PM SESSIONS			
3:45PM	<i>More Than a Checkbox: Unlocking the Story Behind Your LHPG Data</i> – Benjamin Flether, IDPH (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Starved Rock
3:45PM	<i>Need Treatment? No Power? No Problem!</i> – Zachary Newton, Infiltrator (ONSITE)	1.0	Lasalle
3:45PM	<i>Risk Communication Based in the Ecological Model</i> – Lenore Killam (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Utica
3:45PM	<i>IWasPoisoned.com</i> – Patrick Quade, Dine Safe (FOOD)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)