ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION * 11/3-11/4/2026 ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

MAIN CONFERENCE AGENDA- DAY 1: Tuesday, November 3rd

Basics | **Intermediate** | **Advanced**

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

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MAIN CONFERENCE AGENDA - DAY 2: Wednesday, November 4th

Basics | **Intermediate** | **Advanced**

TIME	TOPIC	CEU	ROOM
8:45AM	Welcoming Message – Colleen Nyland, IEHA President	-	Starved Rock
9AM SESSIONS			
9:00AM	*The Dilemma of Cut Plant Foods: Evaluating the Risk* – Sandra Long, Town of Addison, TX Environmental Health Division (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
9:00AM	*Using the New Coliform Flow Chart* – Jennifer Krick, IDPH (WATER)	1.0	Lasalle
9:00AM	*The Menu Game (First Session)* – Corine Peplinski, IDPH (FOOD)	1.0	Utica
9:00AM	*HSGovTech Software Demo* – Summer Stephens, HSGovTech (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
10AM SESSIONS			
10:00AM	*Wait, is This a Food? Navigating the CFR's* – Carolyn White, FDA (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
10:00AM	*Update on PFAS in Drinking Water* – Eric Yeggy, Water Quality Association (WATER)	1.0	Lasalle
10:00AM	*The Menu Game (Second Session)* – Corine Peplinski, IDPH (FOOD)	1.0	Utica
10-12PM	*Pool Session, Dori Bugajski*, IDPH (GENERAL EH)	2.0	Pool Deck
10:00AM	*Getting Smart About Softening: Water Quality Benefits and Environmental Stewardship* – Bryanna Poczatek, Water Quality Association (WATER)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
11AM SESSIONS			
11:00AM	*Building an Understanding of the Poultry & Rabbit Exemption* – Dayle Davis, IDOA (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
11:00AM	*Data Centers & Groundwater in Illinois: Evaluating Water Demand and Potential Aquifer Impacts* – Daniel Abrams, IL State Water Survey (WATER)	1.0	Lasalle
11-12:30PM	*Student Poster Session* (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Utica
11:00AM	*Inside Illinois Government: The Legislative Process & State of the State* – 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	*IDPH Food Program Updates* – Darrah Dunlap, IDPH (FOOD)	1.0	Starved Rock
1:30PM	*Out of Sight, Not Out of Mind: Septic Systems and Food Safety* – Sarah Pozzi, Peoria City/County Health Department (ONSITE)	1.0	Lasalle
1:30PM-3:30PM	*Wanna Try Your Hand at Understanding the Root Cause of an Outbreak?* – Erin Boester, Madison County Health Dept (FOOD)	2.0	Utica
1:30-3:30PM	*Pool Session*, Dori Bugajski, IDPH (GENERAL EH)	2.0	Pool Deck
1:30PM	*Needle(s) in a Haystack: Norovirus Illness Association with Raw Oyster Consumption* – Clay Callaway, Maricopa County Health Dept (FOOD)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
2:30PM SESSIONS			
2:30PM	*Major Drivers of Change: Implications for Environmental Health Practice* – Scott Holmes, NEHA (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Starved Rock
2:30PM	*Wastewater Treatment Challenges in Small Communities* – Tobias Simpson, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) (ONSITE)	1.0	Lasalle
2:30PM	*Mapping the Progress of Lead Poisoning Prevention Community Awareness Outreach* – Tibyan Abdallah, Douglas County Health Dept (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)
AFTERNOON BREAK– 3:30-3:45PM			
3:45PM SESSIONS			
3:45PM	*More Than a Checkbox: Unlocking the Story Behind Your LHPG Data* – Benjamin Fletcher, IDPH (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Starved Rock
3:45PM	*Need Treatment? No Power? No Problem!* – Zachary Newton, Infiltrator (ONSITE)	1.0	Lasalle
3:45PM	*Risk Communication Theory and Practices for Effective Crisis Communication* – Lenore Killam, IEHA (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Utica
3:45PM	*IWasPoisoned.com* – Patrick Quade, Dine Safe (FOOD)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)

Thank you for attending the 2026 IEHA Annual Education Conference!