

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 	<i>You're Gonna Have to Talk to People</i> – Carolyn White, FDA (FOOD)	1.5	Starved Rock	
10:00AM 	<i>Demystification of Septicization: A Crash Course in Septic Systems</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 Tummies, 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	
11:00AM 	<i>Norovirus: Small Virus, Massive Impact</i> – 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 	<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> – Derek 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 HD (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>Cross Connections in Water Systems, and Well Systems</i> – Alejandro Toledo-Garcia, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) (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 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	 <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>HSGovTech Software Demo</i> – Summer Stephens, HSGovTech (GENERAL EH)	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	
10-12PM	 <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, IL 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>Major Drivers of Change: Implications for Environmental Health Practice</i> – Scott Holmes, NEHA (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Starved Rock	
2:30PM	 <i>Wastewater Treatment Challenges in Small Communities</i> – Tobias Simpson, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) (ONSITE)	1.0	Lasalle	
2:30PM	 <i>Mapping the Progress of Lead Poisoning Prevention Community Awareness Outreach</i> – Tibyan Abdallah, Douglas County Health Dept (GENERAL EH)	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 Theory and Practices for Effective Crisis Communication</i> – Lenore Killam, IEHA (GENERAL EH)	1.0	Utica	
3:45PM	 <i>IWasPoisoned.com</i> – Patrick Quade, Dine Safe (FOOD)	1.0	Peru (VIRTUAL)	

Thank you for attending the 2026 IEHA Annual Education Conference!