



Date: July 30, 2009

General questions: Andrea Cantu-Schomus, 503-947-5027

Technical questions: Trish Neiworth, 971-673-0206

Learn how making healthy choices can be fun at upcoming public health-focused OMSI event

Learning about how to stay safe and healthy sounds like something you might study at school.

But introduce Elliot the Elephant, Dezi Bell the Manikin and the “sneezing nose” – and put it all at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) in Portland – and you have a fun-filled learning field trip for the whole family.

“Crack the Case of Good Health” is the theme for the action-packed OMSI exhibit, held Aug. 10-15 and coordinated by the Oregon Department of Human Services Public Health Division with more than two dozen partners.

“This is an opportunity for kids and adults alike to have fun learning about everything from what happens when we sneeze to how loud we can safely go when listening to our iPods,” says Dr. Mel Kohn, head of Public Health for the Oregon Department of Human Services.

OMSI, open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., is located at 1945 S.E. Water Ave. The exhibit will be located in the hallway outside CSI: The Experience and is included with general museum admission.

Among the nearly 20 “good health” activities:

- Bring your iPod and visit Dezi Bell the manikin to find out if the volume is damaging your hearing.
- At the “sneezing nose,” complete with spray mist and sound effects, push a button to learn about preventing illness and appropriately using antibiotics.

- Visit the Think First skeleton to learn how to protect against childhood injuries – and why it’s important.
- Play a bean game with Elliot the Elephant to learn how immunizations help to keep kids and adults healthy.
- Get a fruit or veggie temporary tattoo while learning about the importance of healthy foods at the WIC booth.
- Play a colorful wheel game to learn more about how to prevent foodborne illnesses.
- Take the challenge of whether you know where your food comes from (hint: hamburger doesn’t originate at the drive-through nor milk at the grocery store).
- Search for hazards on the Home Hazard Hunt poster and learn about mold, lead, pests, asthma triggers, poisons, fire and other health and safety hazards.

Once visitors believe they’ve “cracked the case” they will be invited to spin a giant wheel for a public health prize.

“Public health is important to keep everyone safe from illness and harm,” says Kohn. “And at OMSI next month, it’s also going to be a lot of fun.”

Partners and sponsors include: Oregon Health & Science University, Community Health Priorities – a project of the Northwest Health Foundation, Oregon Young Workers Health and Safety Coalition, OHSU’s Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology, Oregon OSHA, SAIF Corporation, Oregon Poison Center, Oregon Environmental Council, Multnomah County Environmental Health, Josiah Hill III Clinic, Community Energy Project, Washington County Environmental Health, Alliance Working for Antibiotic Resistance Education, Safe Kids Oregon, Providence St. Vincent Hospital, Oregon WIC, Oregon Immunization Program, Oregon Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, Guide by Your Side, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Office of Environmental Public Health, Oregon Public Health Association, EnviroMedia Social Marketing, Portland State University, Oregon Master of Public Health Program, Portland Community College, University of Portland, Oregon Public Health Division, Oregon Department of Human Services, and OMSI.