



# MEDIA RELEASE

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **KCHD's next Diabetes Management Series starts May 5**

*Classes are free and open to the public*

*Knoxville, Tenn.* – The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) offers a free Diabetes Management Series several times a year to help those affected by the disease. The next four-part series takes place on **Thursdays, May 5, 12, 19 and 26, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the KCHD auditorium, 140 Dameron Ave.**

“Successfully managing diabetes requires both awareness of what causes blood sugar levels to rise and diligence in monitoring those levels,” said Susan Fowlkes, KCHD director of clinical nutrition. “A strong support system can be extremely helpful for those diagnosed with the disease, which is why we encourage people to bring their spouse, family member or close friend to the classes.”

The four-class series provides information on how to manage diabetes through proper diet, medication and exercise. Individuals diagnosed as diabetic or pre-diabetic are encouraged to attend. Parking is free. Those interested in attending should call 865-215-5170 to register.

Diabetes can cause serious health complications including heart disease, blindness, kidney failure and lower-extremity amputations. In 2014, it was estimated that 10.5 percent of Knox County adults (18+ years) have been diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S. and the eighth leading cause of death in Knox County. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, if current trends continue, as many as 1 out of 3 U.S. adults could have diabetes by 2050.

Due to the prevalence of the disease, KCHD also administers several prevention programs aimed at reducing diabetes rates, including the Nutrition Education Activity Training (NEAT) after-school program, mini-grants for local businesses to improve diet and physical activity among employees, walking school bus programs, breastfeeding promotion and advocacy, community engagement programs, and others.

### **About Knox County Health Department:**

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is a governmental agency dedicated to making every person a healthy person. As the first health department in Tennessee to achieve national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, KCHD's mission is to encourage, promote and assure the development of an active, healthy community through innovative public health practices. The organization conducts disease surveillance, prevention and control; emergency preparedness; nutrition and physical activity promotion; tobacco use prevention; health equity promotion; immunizations; and much more. For more information, visit [www.knoxcounty.org/health](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health).

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