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May is Asthma Awareness Month

Asthma Workshop to Increase Awareness, Offer Help Reducing Incidence

A panel of experts will lead a *Community Conversation on Asthma* from 6 – 8 p.m., Thur., May 27, in the auditorium of Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School, 325 S. Kenilworth Ave. The event, sponsored by the Oak Park Department of Public Health and the Suburban Asthma Consortium, is intended to increase awareness about indoor and outdoor pollutants that trigger asthma and offer strategies to help prevent asthma incidence.

“Asthma is the fourth most common reason for pediatric physician office visits, and is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism,” said Oak Park Health Director Georgeen Polyak, PhD. “In the United States alone, 4.8 million children suffer from asthma, which accounts for one third of all pediatric emergency room visits.”

According to Dr. Polyak, more than 68,000 children and 95,000 adults in the collar counties of Chicago are affected by this chronic condition. Workshops such as the upcoming one can help individuals better understand the disease and learn ways to minimize its impact on their daily lives, she said.

In addition to presenting information on asthma and respiratory disease, panel members also will discuss air quality issues that can affect asthma, such as secondhand smoke, and answer questions from attendees.

Registration is not necessary and light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 708.358.5487 or email health@oak-park.us.

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