

News Release

For immediate release

For more information contact Jessica Davies at 308-487-3600 Ext. 101 or jdavies@pphd.org.

Walk @ Lunch Day – April 27

Many local businesses already signed up to participate and are creatively planning to get employees up and moving

The journey to a happier and healthier “good life” begins with one step. Walking is the single most powerful thing you can do for yourself. It’s also a great way to spend time with the people you care about ... to connect, share your life and create memories. Getting started is simple.

Just Step and Repeat #WalkNE.

Join us as we step and repeat on National Walk @ Lunch Day, April 27, 2016. Where do you go to walk? Step right out your worksite door.

“It’s really just that simple,” Jessica Davies, Panhandle Worksite Wellness Council Coordinator, said. “We are asking employees to get up and get moving over their lunch break, anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes.”

Sitting is now considered the new smoking due to the number of negative effects it has on our health. A 30 minute walk, five days a week reduces the rate of people becoming diabetic by more than half. For men it can also decrease the risk of colon cancer by 50% and prostate cancer by two-thirds.

“It’s not really about running marathons, the evidence clearly shows that we need to get up and move throughout the day,” Davies cited.

She added, “We’ve already had several Panhandle businesses sign up. It’s completely free and an easy way to promote good health to employees! All businesses that sign up will receive an incentive for participating.”

Businesses like Panhandle Coop, based in Scottsbluff, have been quite creative with the walk. Last year, they partnered with the Panhandle Humane Society and encouraged employees to walk a dog along the community path.

Others fit the walk to match their employee population like Gardner, Loutzenhiser, & Ryan, PC and Northwest Community Action Partnership, both based in Chadron, who encouraged their employees to walk with their kiddos at the Morning Marathon Club.

We've also seen employers hold a "Poker Walk" or local recycling organizations challenge employees to grab trash bags and pick up trash when they are out walking. However they choose to getting employees moving is up to them!

"Let's give employees parole from their desk sentence and take a walk on April 27," Davies concluded. "Starting with something as simple as this can lead to a life-long healthy habit."

There is no charge to participate and organizations need not be a member to participate. Organizations that register on the Panhandle Worksite Wellness Council website at www.pphd.org/pwwc.html for National Walk @ Lunch Day will receive a \$15 Subway® gift card and member companies will be entered into a drawing for a walking workstation or two sit-to-stand workstations (\$1000 value) for employees to benefit from the effects of walking year round and throughout the work day.

For additional information about worksite wellness, visit the website or call Davies at 308-487-3600 extension 101. The Panhandle Worksite Wellness Council is proudly part of Panhandle Public Health District and specializes in supporting employers in the Panhandle region. We recognize that many employers support a diverse and remote workforce and offer innovative ways to overcome the challenge of working with a virtual team. We understand that many of our employers do not have full-time wellness resources and work to provide resources and training to make running a worksite wellness program as easy as possible.

Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.