

Write a Letter to the Editor



TIME: 30-60 MINS

PEOPLE: 1 OR MORE SUPPORTERS

Writing a letter to the editor for your local newspaper or other media outlet is a great advocacy tool and helps create awareness of the importance of public health in creating a healthier, stronger nation.

Email mediarelations@apha.org for assistance with submitting a letter!

Tips for getting a letter to the editor published:

- **Be brief and concise.** Focus your letter on just one concept or idea. Limit yourself to 150-200 words.
- **Refer to the other stories.** If possible, refer to other articles, editorials or letters the newspaper has recently published. This should be done as soon as possible after the article was published. This will increase its chance of being printed.
- **Include contact information.** Include your name, address and daytime and home phone number so the paper can contact you with any questions. Also, include any titles and degrees that are relevant to help the media know you have expertise. And make sure to refer to your organization or the American Public Health Association in your letter.

“We use media releases to inform area legislators and community members about and advocate for public health. Our La Crosse County Health Department has a strong relationship with local news affiliates, which enables the department to get many of its press releases and stories picked up on a regular basis.”

*Lindsay Menard, MPH, Business
Analyst, La Crosse County Human
Services Department*



The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the profession of public health, promote best practices and share the latest public health research and information. We are the only organization that influences federal policy, has a 140-plus year perspective and brings together members from all fields of public health. Learn more at www.apha.org.

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