



The Kentucky Department for Public Health

The Department for Public Health (DPH) is a part of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, one of the largest agencies in Kentucky state government. Through its expansive services, DPH reaches thousands of Kentuckians each year by developing and operating all public health programs and activities for the citizens of Kentucky. These health service programs are aimed at prevention, detection, care and treatment of physical disabilities, illness and disease.

DPH includes nurses, restaurant inspectors, epidemiologists, biologists, lab technicians, physicians and numerous other individuals. The talented and varied staff impacts all Kentuckians in some way, whether tracking the spread of influenza across the state or supplying data and vital statistics. Services include numerous health care programs including screenings and follow-up care provided through the local health departments; nutrition programs such as WIC; and disease prevention and awareness programs such as obesity and physical activity programs, diabetes prevention and control, tobacco prevention and cessation, heart disease and HIV-AIDS.

DPH also oversees the administration and distribution of Kentucky's immunization program and all environmental health and public safety services such as lead paint screenings and public swimming pool inspections.

The department advocates public policy believed to enhance the health and well-being of Kentuckians and strengthen the effectiveness of its programs such as expanded newborn screenings. In recent years, the Kentucky Public Health pushed for legislation to expand the number of metabolic screenings for infants and make the funding permanent. With the expanded number of screenings, more potentially life-threatening conditions will be identified and treated early on. This will dramatically improve quality of life and, in some cases, save lives.

DPH also actively follows and supports efforts to improve school nutrition and wellness and public smoking policies.

More information about DPH can be found at www.chfs.ky.gov/dph.

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