

About our department

Updated: September 11, 2023

Hennepin County Public Health works to improve the health of all county residents by addressing social and environmental factors that impact their health and offering programs and services that help them be healthy.

Our department is committed to advancing health and racial equity. We recognize racism as a public health crisis and are working to support and co-create solutions with impacted communities.

We are organized into five service areas. Our programs, services and initiatives are described below.

Clinical Services

Manager: Stephanie.Abel@hennepin.us

Clinical services helps people in Hennepin County stay healthy by offering low-cost medical and mental health services.

Community Based Infectious Disease Response Team (CBID): A team of nurses and community health workers who respond to infectious disease threats by bringing testing, treatment, and vaccination to impacted community locations.

Cope: Provides 24/7 mental health crisis services. Cope mobile crisis teams can provide onsite help and respond to anyone in the county needing urgent response. 612-596-1223.

Health Care for the Homeless: A federally qualified health center providing primary medical care, mental health, and substance use services at community-based facilities serving people experiencing homelessness.

Mental Health Center: A certified community behavioral health clinic that provides a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services, including assessment and outpatient treatment.

Public Health Clinic: a multilingual, multicultural clinic providing screening and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, HIV testing, PrEP, tuberculosis control services, refugee health screening, immigration exams and family planning services. Includes the **Red Door Services**, Minnesota's largest STD/HIV clinic.

Community Health and Strategic Initiatives

Manager: Veronica.Schulz@hennepin.us

Community health & strategic initiatives leads short-term planning projects and ongoing strategic initiatives to support community health and improve our department.



Climate Action: Works to establish how our public health department will address the health aspects of climate change.

Community Engagement: Builds staff capacity for community engagement best practices across our department.

Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP): Partners with stakeholders from multiple communities and sectors to address complex health issues, with a focus on community well-being and housing stability.

Healthy Aging: Supports the development of an age-friendly community to help seniors in Hennepin County live safely, enjoy good health, and stay involved.

Health and Racial Equity: Develops and implements strategies to integrate health and racial equity principles into policies, practices into all areas of departmental decision-making.

Health Promotion: Reduces chronic disease and improves health equity by promoting healthy policies, systems and environments that support healthy behaviors. Priority areas include physical activity, healthy eating, tobacco prevention, mental well-being, and substance-use prevention.

Quality Improvement (QI): Coordinates the department's QI efforts and advancement of the QI culture. The goal is to fully integrate QI into the way our department does business, across all levels and programs.

Strategic planning: Develops and supports implementation of the department's strategic plan, defining priorities and direction.

Trauma Informed: Develops and implements trauma informed goals and strategies. The goal

is for our department to become a trauma informed organization.

Workforce Development: Builds, develops, and maintains an innovative and engaged workforce through staff competency assessments, training, and professional development opportunities.

Family Health

Manager: Meredith.OBrien@hennepin.us

Family health programs support children, adolescents, pregnant people, and parents. We focus on prevention to improve outcomes for families, especially families of color and families experiencing risk factors that can impact children's development.

Birth Defect Information System (BDIS):

Public health nurse monitoring and follow up for children with congenital birth defects, including early hearing loss detection and intervention.

Caring Connections 4 Kids (CC4K):

Comprehensive public health nursing assessment of overall well-being and resource connection for children involved with Child Protection Services.

Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC): Provides well-child checkups for children and teens under the age of 21 who are on Medical Assistance. Services include help scheduling appointments, arranging transportation, connecting to community resources, and more.

Family Home Visiting: Promotes positive birth outcomes and healthy child development by strengthening or restoring critical attachment relationships between parents and children.

Follow Along Program: Monitors growth and learning through a series of questionnaires provided to participating families. Families also

receive age-appropriate activity ideas and resources to promote child development.

Lead Follow-up: Health monitoring in children with elevated blood lead levels.

Strong Beginnings: Specialized early childhood education within community childcare centers.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Helps pregnant people, new mothers, babies, and young children eat well and stay healthy through nutrition education, and breastfeeding support. Includes benefits to purchase nutritious foods, including fresh fruit and vegetables.

Health Protection

Manager: Amy.Caron@hennepin.us

Health protection prepares for, prevents, inspects, and mitigates the negative effects of infectious diseases and leads the department's efforts around assessment and evaluation.

Data and Assessment: Collects, organizes, and disseminates data to support decision-making and performance management. Administers, cleans the data, and disseminates the SHAPE survey every four years.

Epidemiology and Immunizations: Monitors, responds, and documents trends, and provides education on communicable diseases. Provides immunization registry services (ImmuLink); and ensures babies are up to date on immunizations (Baby Tracks).

Emergency Medical Services: Supports emergency medical services planning and regulations, working to ensure common standards for medical response and transportation in Hennepin County.

Emergency Preparedness and Response: Plans and ensures that proper systems are in place to

respond and protect the health and safety of county residents during public health emergencies.

Environmental Health: Licenses and inspects food, beverage, and lodging facilities, septic systems, pools, beach water, camps, and body art businesses; addresses environmental threats and public health nuisances.

Ryan White Program: Coordinates services for people living with HIV/AIDS; administers federal funds that enable people to receive care; and provides support to the Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention.

Administration

Manager: Susan.Moore@hennepin.us

Administration provides internal services to support and improve the operation of our department.

Grants: Plans and manages public health grant strategy, supports development and submission of grant applications.

Contracts: Coordinates contract development and approval processes for our department.

Project management: Manages department-wide projects to increase efficiency, and meet reporting, accreditation, ethics, policy, and funder requirements.

Staffing management: Supports supervisors in hiring processes, coordinates credentialing, onboarding, and tracks training.

Policies and procedures: Develops and coordinates department-wide procedures and ensures alignment with overarching county policies.

Communications: Provides writing, editing, graphic design, and media services; leads marketing campaigns; and creates internal communication materials.

Manager: Allison.Thrash@hennepin.us

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