



MANCHESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY, FEBRUARY 2008

What Is the Role of a Local Public Health Department?

PROGRAM LISTING:

**Arbovirus
Surveillance &
Control**

**Chronic Disease
Prevention**

**Communicable
Disease Control**

**Community
Epidemiology**

Dental Health

**Environmental
Planning and
Pollution Control**

Food Protection

HIV Prevention

**Homeless
Healthcare Project**

Immunizations

**Institutional
Inspections**

**Lead Poisoning
Prevention**

**Neighborhood
Health**

**Public Health
Investigations**

**Public Health
Preparedness**

Refugee Health

School Health

**Sexually
Transmitted
Disease Control**

**Tuberculosis
Control**

Water Quality

**Youth Health
Promotion**

Governmental public health departments are responsible for creating and maintaining conditions that keep people healthy. Accordingly, a local public health department exists for the common good and is responsible for demonstrating leadership in the promotion of physical, behavioral, environmental, social, and economic conditions that improve health and well-being; preventing illness, disease, injury, and premature death; and eliminating health disparities. The Manchester Health Department is a Functional Health Department as defined by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and as such, the Department:

- Understands the specific health issues confronting the community, and how physical, behavioral, environmental, social, and economic conditions affect them.
- Investigates health problems and threats.
- Prevents, minimizes and contains adverse health effects from communicable diseases, diseases from unsafe food and water, chronic diseases, environmental hazards, injuries, and risky health behaviors.
- Leads planning and response activities for public health emergencies.
- Collaborates with other local responders and with state and federal agencies to intervene in other emergencies with public health significance.
- Implements health promotion activities.
- Engages the community to address public health issues.
- Develops partnerships with public and private healthcare providers and institutions, community based organizations, and other governmental agencies engaged in services that affect health to collectively identify, alleviate, and act on the sources of public health problems.
- Coordinates the public health system's efforts in an intentional, non-duplicative manner.
- Addresses health disparities.
- Serves as an essential resource for local governing bodies and policy makers on up-to-date public health laws and policies.
- Provides science-based, timely, and culturally competent health information and health alerts to the media and the community.
- Provides its expertise to others who treat and address issues of public health significance.
- Ensures compliance with public health laws and ordinances, using enforcement authority when appropriate.
- Employs well-trained staff members who have the necessary resources to implement best practices and evidence-based programs and interventions.
- Facilitates research efforts with academic partners that benefit the community.
- Uses and contributes to the evidence base of public health.
- Strategically plans its services and activities, evaluates performance and outcomes, and makes adjustments as needed to continually improve its effectiveness, enhance the community's health status, and meet the community's expectations.

The Manchester Health Department carries out these responsibilities through its four main Divisions: Chronic Disease Prevention & Neighborhood Health, Community Health, Environmental Health & Emergency Response, and School Health. The following is a synopsis of the services provided and the community activities of your Health Department.

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH

The Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Neighborhood Health was established in 2006 to focus public health improvement efforts on the growing rates of chronic disease and sociodemographic disparity among Manchester's diverse neighborhoods. The Division works closely with community partners and residents to prioritize needs, research models that work, and employ evidence-based practices. This Division accomplishes its mission through the use of community epidemiology and seeks to improve cardiovascular health, cancer prevention and control, and asthma prevention and control through the areas of tobacco prevention and control, nutrition, physical activity, access to care, and the promotion of healthy homes. The Division also works to provide health education throughout the community in the form of competency development and public health quality improvement.

- ❑ **Healthy Manchester Leadership Council** – Established in 1996, Manchester's leadership body that steers the local community health improvement process.
- ❑ **Community Epidemiology** – Provides the routine assessment of the health status of the community. Also defines priority issues, special populations, and neighborhoods of need.
- ❑ **Cardiovascular Health** – Guided by the Passport to Cardiovascular Health Planning Committee. Focused on community-based cardiovascular health and worksite wellness.
- ❑ **Cancer Prevention and Control** – Guided by the Manchester Crusade Against Cancer. Targets breast, lung, and colorectal cancer prevention and control.
- ❑ **Asthma Prevention and Control** – Through the Manchester Multilingual Asthma Education and Outreach program and asthma education in the schools.
- ❑ **Tobacco Prevention and Control** – Guided by the Kickin' Butts in Manchester Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalition. Targets education, enforcement, and cessation services.
- ❑ **Promoting Nutrition and Physical Activity** – Provides nutrition services in the schools and community environmental design in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area.
- ❑ **Encouraging Healthy Homes** – Partnered with the Way Home to provide peer education and outreach services on "healthy home" issues such as lead and pest-related concerns in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area.
- ❑ **Community Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Revitalization** – Guided by the Weed and Seed Strategy to target crime prevention and neighborhood revitalization initiatives in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area.
- ❑ **Resident Mobilization** – The development and training of Neighborhood Watch Groups for health advocacy and emergency preparedness.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Community Health Division is pivotal in promoting health and preventing disease for residents of the Manchester community. The Division assesses issues of public health significance, initiates investigations and control measures for reportable diseases, provides clinical services, and implements evidence-based public health interventions. Each community health program is customized to address current public health needs, with a strong focus on prevention through health education, quality assurance and best practices.

- ❑ **Oral Health Program** – School-based oral health services are provided in Title One Schools, where students are at greatest risk for oral disease. Utilizing evidence-based practices, the application of sealants is the priority area for the school-based program.
- ❑ **Lead Case Management** – Case management is provided for Manchester children diagnosed with an elevated blood lead level. Professional and community prevention and management education is provided, as well as lead screens for children at risk.
- ❑ **Refugee Health** – The MHD is designated as a Civil Surgeon. As such, it provides TB skin testing, immunizations, lead screens, and health education for all new arrivals to the Manchester community.
- ❑ **Immunization Program** – Adult and childhood immunizations are provided at routine clinics, with additional seasonal clinics for the provision of flu vaccine. Community immunization rates are assessed and quality improvement recommendations made.
- ❑ **HIV/STD Program** – HIV/STD clinical services, HIV testing & counseling, vaccine administration, and follow-up are provided on and off site to high-risk clients.
- ❑ **TB Prevention and Control** – Case management is provided for clients with latent TB infection, while directly observed therapy and case management is provided for clients with active TB infection. Tuberculin skin testing is routinely provided to the public.
- ❑ **Communicable Disease Control** – The control of emerging and re-emerging pathogens remains at the forefront of a local public health department's mission. Prompt investigation and implementation of control measures for communicable diseases is the cornerstone of public health.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Division of Environmental Health and Emergency Response is responsible for the protection of the public's health through education about and enforcement of regulations concerning environmental factors. The environment includes food, water, air, living space, and neighborhoods. The Division is also responsible for developing and executing community and regionally-based emergency response plans to address emergencies caused by a number of threats to the public's health.

- ❑ **Food Protection** – Routine inspection of food service establishments, food handler education, food and waterborne illness outbreak investigation and food-related complaint investigation.
- ❑ **Water Quality** – Routine inspection of swimming pools, spas and natural bathing areas, pool operator education, and routine and specialized water sampling.
- ❑ **Environmental Planning & Pollution Control** – Plan review and inspection of newly constructed or repaired onsite sewage disposal (septic) systems. Investigation of failed septic systems or other sources of pollution. Subdivision review and approval.
- ❑ **Institutional Inspections** – Health and safety inspections of schools, childcare facilities, as well as group and foster homes.
- ❑ **Public Health Hazard & Nuisance Investigation** – Investigation and abatement of complaints pertaining to issues that may present a public health hazard or nuisance. Garbage, animal waste, asbestos, air quality, chemical exposures, and other quality of life issues are address by the Division, as well as through the collaborative efforts of the Neighborhood Enhancement Team.
- ❑ **Arboviral Surveillance & Control** – Avian, mosquito, and human surveillance for arboviral diseases such as West Nile Virus and EEE. Public education, complaint investigation, and the implementation of control measures are routinely carried out.
- ❑ **Public Health Emergency Response** - Along with our emergency response colleagues (Fire, Police, EMS, Hospitals), the Health Department maintains a 24/7 response capability. The Department steers the regional public health emergency planning activities for biological, chemical, or radiological emergencies, and along with our partners, has developed emergency response plans to protect our community.

SCHOOL HEALTH

In cooperation with the Manchester School District, the Health Department's School Health Division provides preventive, maintenance, and emergency health services to the 16,476 school-age children attending twenty-two schools in Manchester. Health appraisals, nursing assessments, nutrition assessments, health screenings, health counseling, referrals and follow-up for identified health problems, emergency health services, and activities aimed at reducing risky behaviors are the tasks of the school nurse. The school nurses collaborate with families, school staff, social workers, and health care providers in developing care plans, seeking appropriate health resources, and addressing specific health issues.

- ❑ **Health Education** – Consultation and delivery of comprehensive K-12 health education that is developmentally appropriate, factual, and culturally sensitive.
- ❑ **School Nutrition Services** - Through collaboration with a dietician, the goal is to maximize each child's learning and lifelong health potential by offering foods reflective of the Food Pyramid that are nutritious, appealing, and affordable in an environment supporting healthy eating behaviors and physical activity.
- ❑ **School Health Services** – Preventive services, emergency care, social and emotional care, management of both acute and chronic health conditions, education and health promotion, access to care, and reduction of health-related barriers to students learning.
- ❑ **Health Promotion for Faculty & Staff** – Provision of programs and materials, including a healthy school environment, designed to improve and maintain health status, strengthen morale, and enhance effectiveness in working with the school-age population.
- ❑ **Family and Community Involvement** – Provide partnerships with schools, community groups, individuals, and families to maximize resources and expertise in addressing health-related issues and providing a manner of connecting the community.

AMERICORPS VISTA; HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS; NEW HAMPSHIRE INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE (ILPHP)

In addition to the Divisions and services outlined above, the Health Department serves as the home for the City of Manchester's AmeriCorps VISTA project, the HealthCare for the Homeless project (a 330h Federally Qualified Health Center), and the New Hampshire Institute for Local Public Health Practice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MANCHESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Visit our website at <http://www.manchesternh.gov/CityGov/HLT/Home.html>, or call 624-6466.