

About our department

August 5, 2024

Hennepin County Public Health is committed to advancing health and racial equity.

Mission, vision, and values

Mission: Advance health and racial equity through science, and prevention-focused, inclusive, public health policies, practices, and services.

Vision: All people who live, work, and play in Hennepin County experience optimal health grounded in racial equity.

Values:

- People First.
- Well-being for Everyone.
- Trusted Partner.
- Positive Impact.
- Engaged and Responsive.

Learn more in our [2021-2025 strategic plan](#).

Public Health Director:

Sara.Hollie@hennepin.us

Deputy Public Health Director:

Stephanie.Abel@hennepin.us

Our department is organized into five service areas, with programs, services, and initiatives of each described below.

Clinical Services

Manager: Dawn.Petroskas@hennepin.us

Clinical services area helps people stay healthy by offering low-cost medical, mental health and substance use 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.

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. The health center includes a street-based medicine team that does outreach to people who are unsheltered.

Public Health Clinic: A multilingual, multicultural clinic providing harm reduction services for opioid use; tuberculosis control services, refugee health screening, immigration exams and family planning services.

The clinic includes the **Red Door Services**, Minnesota's largest, and longest standing STI/HIV clinic. Red Door offers screening and



treatment for sexually transmitted infections; disease investigation services; HIV testing, PrEP and PEP and HIV; and community outreach and case management.

Community Health & Strategic Initiatives

Manager: Veronica.Schulz@hennepin.us

Community health & strategic initiatives area 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.

Food Security: Supports the development of a countywide food security plan to ensure access to culturally relevant, healthful food for residents and community.

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: Works to prevent and reduce chronic disease and improves health equity by promoting healthy policies, systems and environments that improve health. Priority areas include physical activity; healthful eating, food security; commercial tobacco and other substance use prevention; community mental well-being and improving clinic linkages.

Heart Health Initiative: Comprehensive plan to reduce heart health disparities with African American/Black and Indigenous women in Hennepin County. Supports efforts in prevention, post-cardiac events, and awareness.

Hennepin Cities Public Health Partnership: Coordinates and engages with cities in Hennepin County served by our department. Partners to inform cities about our services and programs and address health concerns.

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.

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

Suicide Prevention: Develops and implements a comprehensive suicide prevention plan for the county focused on youth, especially youth of color, American Indian, and LGBTQ+ youth.

Trauma Informed: Develops and implements trauma informed goals and strategies. The goal is for our department to become a trauma informed organization.

Violence Prevention: Supports development of violence prevention plans and activities in partnership with internal and external stakeholders.

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 area 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, mental health screening, and resource connection for children involved with Child Protection Services.

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

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

Health Evaluation and Assessment Team:

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: Monitors trends in infectious diseases and responds with disease prevention and control activities.

ImmuTracks: Supports healthcare providers with quality improvement activities to increase on-time vaccination (IQIP); helps families ensure babies are up to date on immunizations (Baby Tracks); and plans community-based immunization clinics.

Long-term Care Infection Prevention: Provides long-term care facilities' infection prevention and control programs with program assessments, education, and training opportunities.

Informatics: Supports the development, maintenance and use of efficient public health data systems ensuring access to timely and accurate data.

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

Public Health 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 as well as Positively Hennepin

Administration

Manager: Christy.Yoon@hennepin.us

Administration area provides internal services to support and strengthen the infrastructure and operations 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

Contact us

Additional program and service information, including programmatic contact information is available on our website or by calling or email our department.

- Web: hennepin.us/publichealth
- Email: publichealth@hennepin.us
- Phone: 612-348-8900

Learn more

- Blog: [Healthy You, Healthy Hennepin](#)
- Facebook: [@healthyhennepin](#)