Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Commissioner Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD

We Keep People Healthy and Communities Strong

Just a few of the ways we did that in 2024:

We make it safe to eat and drink in Massachusetts.

* Investigated more than **900** cases and **50** outbreaks of food-borne illness
* Issued warnings to protect people from harmful chemicals in fish they might eat from **40** rivers, ponds, and lakes

We ensure that your environment is healthy and safe.

* Supported the investigation of **7,000** homes for lead paint and provided case management services for **500** families to eliminate risk of lead poisoning for children
* With local health, tested over **16,000** water samples for bacteria at **1,100** beaches
* Inspected over **1,000** X-ray, laser and mammography machines to protect patients and the public

We prevent injury, illness, and premature death.

* Answered more than **72,800** calls on the 988/Suicide and Crisis Lifeline supporting individuals in emotional distress or suicidal crisis
* Performed over **360,000** lab tests for infectious illnesses, such as flu, measles, and HIV
* Provided over **405,200** naloxone kits and **365,500** fentanyl test strips to community organizations to help prevent opioid-related overdose deaths

We give children and families a healthy start.

* Assisted almost **41,400** children under age 3 with a developmental delay or risk of delay through early intervention services
* Supported robust child vaccination rates, with 94% of kindergarteners meeting all vaccine requirements for school entry
* Provided WIC benefits to more than **205,300** pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding people and their children

We ensure that hospitals and other health care facilities meet the highest standards.

* Provided acute and chronic care at our multi-specialty hospitals
* Issued and maintained more than **443,500** licenses, registrations, and permits for health care personnel
* Kept **millions** of patients, clients, and seniors safe by conducting inspections of health care facilities, including long-term care, clinics, acute hospitals, and others

We help prepare for and respond to violence, emergencies, and disasters.

* Provided health support, including vaccinations, for families in the emergency shelter system
* Protected uninterrupted, safe, and quality care for patients in the face of hospital closures and transitions
* Responded to infectious disease outbreaks, like COVID-19, mpox, and other emerging illnesses

We provide valuable public health data and prioritize equity in all we do.

* Maintained over **20 million** vital records data on births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and more
* Launched and began implementation of the Department’s Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity
* Conducted analysis of more than **18,250** responses to the Community Health Equity Survey to better understand social and structural impacts on health of Massachusetts residents

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