We Keep People Healthy and Communities Strong

We make it safe to eat and drink in Massachusetts.

- Inspected 2,000 food manufacturing facilities and supported local boards of health inspecting 40,000 food outlets
- Investigated more than 600 cases of food-borne illness and three dozen outbreaks
- Evaluated the health risks of PFAS contamination – from swimming, fishing, drinking local water, and consuming livestock and seafood - in over a dozen Massachusetts communities.

We ensure that your environment is healthy and safe.

- Investigated 8,000 homes for lead paint and helped over 500 families eliminate risk of lead poisoning for children
- Tested 15,000 water samples at 1,000 beaches
- Safety tested 1,400 X-ray, laser and mammography machines to protect patients

We prevent injury, illness and premature death.

- Provided info to nearly 200,000 people on preventing injuries or recognizing brain injuries.
- Performed over 250,000 lab tests for infectious illnesses such as flu, measles and HIV
- Help thousands of people manage chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes and high blood pressure
- Worked to strengthen laws that prevent the sale of menthol tobacco products and raise the age to 21 to buy cigarettes and vape products
- Distributed over 90,000 naloxone kits to help prevent opioid related overdose deaths

We give children a healthy start and support people in vulnerable situations.

- Over 175,000 children screened for lead poisoning
- 95% child vaccination rate prior to starting school, keeping fellow students and families safe
- 92,760 middle and high school students screened for substance use, ensuring treatment and support
- Screened 99.5% of babies for hearing loss and provided home visiting support to 60,000 families
- Provided WIC benefits to more than 184,000 pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women and their children

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

- Our 4 DPH multi-specialty hospitals provide acute and chronic medical care, including for COVID-19 and special populations
- Issued more than 326,000 licenses, registrations and permits for health care personnel
- Kept millions of patients, clients and seniors safe by inspecting facilities

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

- Leading the statewide public health response to COVID-19, including data analysis and daily reporting, development of guidance and policy, support for primary care, community health centers, long-term care and others, and communicating public health and prevention messages.

We prioritize equity in all we do and use data to laser-focus resources.

- Conducted a survey receiving 35,000 responses to better understand effects of COVID-19 on people disproportionately impacted by health inequities
- More than 10 million vital records data on births, deaths, marriages, divorces and more
- To help combat the opioid epidemic, the public health data warehouse provides unique cross-government data analysis

And that’s just for one year.

www.mass.gov/dph