Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Commissioner Margret R. Cooke

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
- Investigated more than 900 cases of food-borne illness and more than 70 outbreaks
- Evaluated the health risks of PFAS contamination – from swimming, eating fish, and drinking water in Massachusetts communities

We ensure that your environment is healthy and safe.

- Investigated 6,000 homes for lead paint and helped over 450 families eliminate the risk of lead poisoning for children
- With local health, tested over 16,000 water samples at 1,100 beaches
- Safety inspected over 1,000 X-ray, laser and mammography machines to protect patients and the public

We prevent injury, illness and premature death.

- Answered 43,000 calls on the 988/Suicide and Crisis Lifeline supporting individuals in emotional distress or suicidal crisis
- 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
- Conducted 10,000 inspections to enforce new laws preventing menthol tobacco sales and tobacco and vape sales to those under 21
- Distributed over 110,000 naloxone doses and 100,000 fentanyl test strips to help prevent opioid-related overdose deaths

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

- Over 158,000 children screened for lead poisoning
- 95% child vaccination rate prior to starting school, keeping fellow students and families safe
- Assisted 44,000 children under age 3 with a developmental delay or risk of delay through early intervention services
- Screened 99.3% of babies for hearing loss and provided home visiting support to thousands of families
- Provided WIC benefits to 186,000 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 414,400 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.

- Led the statewide public health and vaccination response to COVID-19, including data analysis and reporting, developing guidance and policy for health care, medical, education, and other settings, managing public communications, and supporting more local health jurisdictions than any state health department in the nation

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

- Maintain over 16 million vital records data on births, deaths, marriages, divorces and more
- Conducted a survey analysis of 35,000 responses to better understand effects of COVID-19 on people disproportionately impacted by health inequities
- To help combat the opioid epidemic, the public health data warehouse provides unique cross-government data analysis

And that’s just for one year.