

Director's Update to the Board of Health November 2025

Protecting Health – Preventing the Spread of Infectious Disease

Flu

The Metro Public Health Department administered 621 flu shots across three separate sites during the annual Fight Flu Day on Tuesday, October 21st. That compares to the 635 flu shots administered across five sites during the 2024 edition of the event. Fight Flu is an annual event done in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Health, who operates flu shot Points of Dispensation, or PODs, in every county. Of all PODs across the state, MPHD's Lentz Public Health Center POD administered the most flu shots. The day was an extra success for MPHD as it was the first year using the new Patagonia Electronic Health Record system. This allowed MPHD to operate all three PODs completely paperless.

Fight Flu Day is one big part of MPHD's annual flu shot campaign. The event followed an event at the Metro Historic Courthouse, where we administered flu shots to those ahead of the October 9th Metro Council meeting. Later in October, MPHD held two separate flu shot events focused on Metro Nashville employees. And now for the rest of flu season, flu shots will remain free of charge at all MPHD clinics. You will soon see billboards across the Nashville area encouraging our community to take steps to fight flu this year, including getting a flu shot, covering your cough and washing your hands. To date, MPHD has administered 2,031 flu vaccines.

Measles

Nashville is responding to the first case of measles since 2005, and the Metro Public Health Department is leading the response. The case has remained isolated, so there is no longer the risk of spread to others. In coordination with the Tennessee Department of Health, MPHD has taken the lead in investigating the case and potential contacts. Measles is very contagious, and the team has identified a significant number of contacts, each in need of individualized attention. Investigators first determine whether each contact is vaccinated against measles, then offer guidance on potential quarantine and symptom-monitoring. As of now, the initial case remains the only confirmed case of measles in Nashville.

The Measles-Mumps-Rubella vaccine, or MMR vaccine, is very effective at preventing the infection of measles. MPHD encourages those who are not vaccinated against measles to consult with their primary care provider and ask about getting vaccinated. The MMR vaccine is available by appointment at all MPHD preventive health clinics, Monday through Friday. CDC numbers show that in 2025, more than 1,600 cases of measles have been

reported in the United States. Of those cases, 92% were not fully vaccinated. According to the CDC, two doses of MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles; one dose is about 93% effective.

COVID vaccines

MPHD once again is administering COVID-19 vaccines, offering Moderna to those who qualify. Those who are 65 and older or those with an underlying condition can qualify for a COVID-19 vaccine. MPHD clinical staff members work with each patient individually to ensure they qualify, requiring written consent from a parent or guardian for those under 18.

Both Emergency Department and Wastewater indications of COVID-19 show low trends. The CDC's data from May show that last respiratory illness season, more than 30 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered nationwide. Those who receive the COVID-19 vaccine can receive their flu shot at the same time.

Improve and Sustain Family and Child Well-Being

Oral Health Program

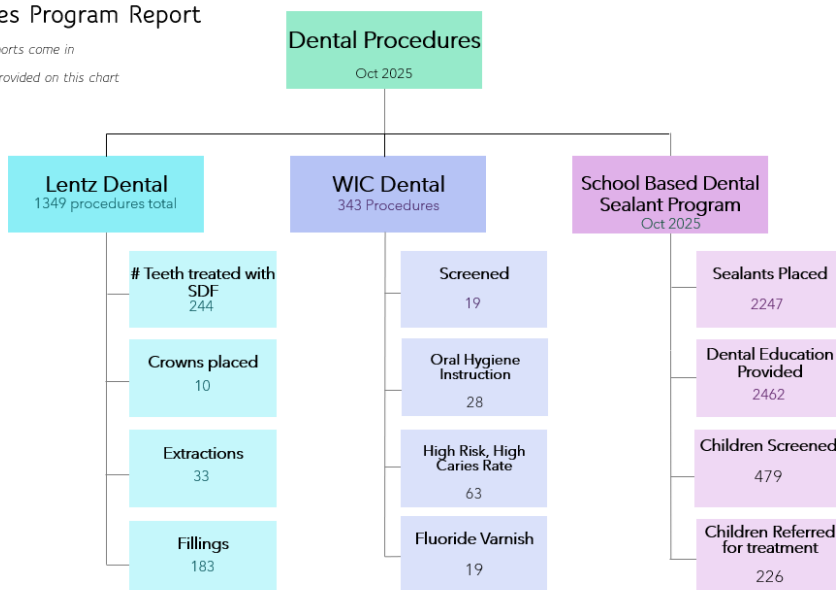
The MPHD Oral Health Program, including the clinical component, WIC Dental and the school-based dental program, continue to serve the community's needs. See the summary below of the program's work throughout the month of October.

OCT 2025

Oral Health Services Program Report

**numbers subject to change as reports come in*

***limited overview of procedures provided on this chart*



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed every year in October, designed to raise awareness, increase education and support the fight against breast cancer.

So far this year, the MPHD family has done a lot to put the focus on breast cancer and raise money to help fight it. At the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk earlier this month, \$786.64 was raised. At least a dozen MPHD employees and their families and friends participated in the walk throughout Nashville. The Pink Out on Monday 10/27/2025 was another chance to show support and learn a little more about breast cancer. Photos from all over MPHD show the support the team puts toward recognizing and fighting breast cancer.

WIC

MPHD is happy to hear that the Federal Government shutdown is expected to end soon, restoring stable funding to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). While services with WIC were never cut during the shutdown, palpable tension over that possibility was present throughout the 43-day shutdown. Participants were instructed to use their benefits as usual throughout the shutdown, and no interruption was noted. An extension of funding was announced in early November. Still, with interruptions to SNAP and other programs, unease was felt by participants and WIC employees alike.

Promote and Support Healthier Living

Community Safety

We are working with the Mayor's Office to develop a Community Safety Plan. The Mayor's Office has shared a list of Task Force members with subject matter experts and constituencies with lived experience. Task Force members will be onboarded in late November-Dec and the Task Force meetings and community engagement process will commence in January. The Task Force will meet over six months to develop recommendations for preventing and reducing community violence. MPHD will act as the convener for the process, but this plan will be developed and implemented by the community. There also will be an extensive community engagement process to provide ample opportunity for input from community members across the county. MPHD is working with experienced consultants to help with the process and has an internal group to work with the consultant.

Opioid Response

A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued for opioid settlement funds, soliciting proposals from organizations with experience in opioid remediation strategies, including youth, community and provider education, harm reduction, targeted overdose education, naloxone distribution and linkage to care and care coordination for populations at risk of overdose. This is the second RFP issued by MPHD for county-based settlement funds. We

hope to establish interventions and programs that use a public health approach to address the opioid epidemic. A copy of the RFP can be found at [Health.Nashville.gov](https://www.health.nashville.gov).

In addition, the Epidemiology team has its most recent Quarterly Drug Overdose Surveillance Update. The update shows the continued downward trend of suspected fatal overdoses and suspected overdoses requiring a visit to the ED. Suspected fatal overdoses peaked in 2021 and has been steadily declining ever since. In the 3rd quarter of 2025, 99 suspected fatal overdoses were recorded, a 18% decrease compared to the same time period in 2024. Fentanyl continues to play a role in driving the crisis, appearing in roughly 70% of overdose deaths so far in 2025. This is in line with previous years reporting. Males accounted for the largest percentage of suspected drug overdose deaths at 71% in 2025. The largest percentage of deaths occurred in those ages 35 to 44.

Men's Health Symposium

MPHD's Behavioral Health and Wellness Division is hosting a Men's Health Symposium on Saturday, November 15th. The free event will feature Pastor Cal Roberson, best known for his appearances on Married at First Sight on Lifetime, sharing his message of resilience and building confidence. Already more than 200 people have registered for the event, which is open to men and women alike. In May, MPHD's Behavioral Health & Wellness Division held its first Men's Health Symposium, welcoming more than 100 men to a discussion around vulnerability and masculinity. Registration for this Saturday's event is still open, and those who are interested can find a signup link on MPHD's social media pages.

Create Healthier Community Environments

Journey Pass enrollment

MPHD is partnering with WeGo Public Transit to help connect people with WeGo's and Choose How You Move's Journey Pass program. The program is designed for those enrolled in programs like SNAP, Housing assistance and WIC, connecting them with a free bus pass, good for three years. MPHD has already held three enrollment events, connecting those with either SNAP benefits or receiving MPHD health services with a Journey Pass. The program is funded by Choose How You Move, the transit plan which was passed a year ago. Two more enrollment events are scheduled at the Lentz Public Health Center, and several other community activation events are planned.

Organizational Updates

Early Voting

MPHD's Lentz Public Health Center is once again serving as an early voting site for the U.S. House District 7 Special General Election. The first day of Early Voting was Wednesday, November 12th and runs through November 26th. The Special General Election is the only race on the ballot, so fewer voters are expected than we saw during last year's presidential election. Centennial Room A will be occupied by the Davidson County Election Commission throughout the Early Voting period.

Continuing Education Program

MPHD is hosting the next installment of its Continuing Education Learning Series on Tuesday, December 9th. The title of this series is Collective Action for Community Wellness: Addressing Substance Use through Public Health. The session allows MPHD employees to earn CEUs. A flyer for the event can be found below.



Metro Public Health Dept
Nashville/Davidson County
Protecting, Improving, and Sustaining Health

**FREE
CEUs**

**CONTINUING EDUCATION
LEARNING SERIES, SESSION 3**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025



**Collective Action for Community Wellness:
Addressing Substance Use Through Public Health**

Learning Objectives:

- ❖ Describe roles and responsibilities within the public health team that address opioid and substance use.
- ❖ Identify three public health interventions, and their impact on opioid and other controlled substance uses.
- ❖ Explain how the patient's voice and lived experiences can ultimately lead to better healthcare.

Attend In-person or Live-stream
Location: Lentz Public Health Center, Centennial Rooms
2500 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, 37209
Time: 7:45 AM – 12:20 PM CST

Register Now: <https://ce.icep.wisc.edu/MPHD-addressing-substance-use-december-9-2025> or scan





In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Interprofessional Continuing Education Partnership (ICEP) and the Metro Public Health Department Nashville-Davidson County. The University of Wisconsin-Madison ICEP is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Bloomberg

An informational session on the Bloomberg Fellows Program was well attended, with 12 MPHD employees indicating they intended to apply for the program. The Bloomberg Fellows Program provides public health training to individuals in organizations tackling critical challenges facing the United States, including addiction and overdose, violence, food systems for health, adolescent health, and environmental challenges. Fellows receive a full scholarship to earn an MPH or DrPH degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Woodbine Replacement

Several groups at MPHD are continuing work with General Service on obtaining land suitable for patient population and clinical needs in a new Woodbine facility. A recent discussion with the council member over the Woodbine area highlighted some of the work being done at Woodbine and discussed some of the roadblocks which have been encountered during the search for a replacement. The General Services people we are working with continue to suggest potential sites, and we will keep assessing those.

MACC Building replacement: MACC staff continue working with General Services and a shelter design firm, Animal Arts, to plan for a new animal shelter. We are currently in the process of “right-sizing” the new facility to meet future needs. Once this has been completed, a search for the appropriately sized property will begin.