

Director's Update to the Board of Health

February 2026

Protecting Health – Preventing the Spread of Infectious Disease

Community Safety Task Force

The Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety launched on January 15, 2026. 29 community leaders and stakeholders will work together over the next several months develop recommendations on preventing and mitigating violence in Nashville. The task force will meet on February 11th to define the problem using data and February 25th to discuss resources and gaps in Nashville. Metro will also launch a website on engage.nashville.gov with community engagement opportunities and a public survey next week. Three town hall meetings and 2 listening sessions in MDHA developments will be held to gain input from the community plus at least 10 focus groups to engage directly with individuals. Subsequent meetings will focus on risks and protective factors for violence, violence prevention models, policy, and evaluation.

Hospital Coordination

During the wintry weather in late January, MPHD's Public Health Emergency Preparedness team was hard at work, ensuring coordination between healthcare providers and continuity of service. Hospitals remained fully operational across the state and overall healthcare delivery capacity remained intact. Our healthcare coalition assisted with successfully coordinating two evacuations, including a large evacuation out of a facility in Green Hills, with many memory care and assisted living residents. The PHEP team was also key in coordinating resources for the emergency warming shelters and ensuring circulation of MPHD's food safety and carbon monoxide poisoning messaging.

Improve and Sustain Family and Child Well-Being

WIC Services during snowstorm

Despite treacherous winter weather, MPHD's WIC team was active in ensuring our community was able to access their WIC benefits. The MPHD WIC team certified 68 people on Wednesday, January 28th onto WIC from the hours between around 8am and 2pm, our first day of operation since the previous Friday. In total, WIC issued 333 benefits to families that day with 78 issued in person. We handed out 31 cards to people who either needed a new card or never had a WIC card to purchase their foods. By ensuring our clients knew we were open and available, more of our community was able to access healthy food options for their family.

American Heart Month and Nashville Strong Babies

February is American Heart Month, an annual observance of the importance of heart health. In partnership with the Nashville branch of the American Heart Association, the MPHD Nashville Strong Babies team offers blood pressure monitors to program participants who are at an elevated risk of heart issues. The health of a pregnant mother plays a big role in the health of a baby, and irregular blood pressure has been seen to be an indicator of issues like pre-eclampsia. By offering blood pressure monitors to pregnant participants, the early intervention can lead to better outcomes for both babies and mothers. Nashville Strong Babies continues to see 100% vitality (0 maternal deaths) because of early interventions, strong care coordination and staff training on early maternal warning signs. Our Nashville Strong Babies' work team will also be featured at the American Heart Association's 2026 Four Chambers Gala.

Oral Health

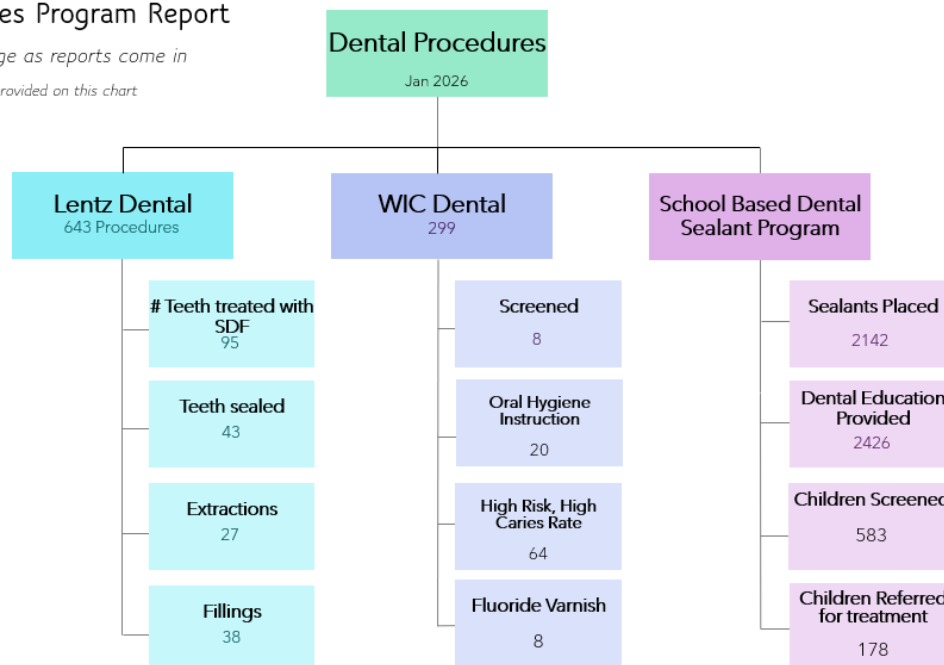
February is National Children's Dental Health Month, a month to promote the benefits of good oral hygiene for children and emphasize that early habits prevent serious issues. The MPHD Oral Health team works to ensure children have access to dental care and intervention.

JAN 2026

Oral Health Services Program Report

**numbers subject to change as reports come in*

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



Promote and Support Healthier Living

Emergency Warming Centers

MPHD Staff played several roles at the emergency warming centers deployed during the snow and ice storm in January. 45 medical professionals from the Clinical Services Bureau and Medical Services team were on site to ensure all those who stayed at the shelter had access to medical care and provided support as necessary to facilitate the delivery of other essential services. Mental health resources, including nine staff members from the Behavioral Health and Wellness division, were also on hand to provide mental health support. A variety of services were provided for those at the shelters over more than a week.

Drug Overdoses

The Health Department's most recent quarterly drug overdose report showed a continuing decline in overdose fatalities and responses, a good sign in a yearslong battle. 2025 was the first year since 2019 that fewer than 500 people died of a suspected drug overdose. Suspected overdose-related ED visits were down in 2025 compared to 2024, and EMS runs for suspected overdoses were also down ~27%. In 2025 MPHD placed its first three Narcan vending machines in the community, keeping them stocked with free and accessible Narcan. In November, Metro released a \$5.5 million RFP million in county opioid settlement funds. Allowable activities included education, targeted naloxone distribution, harm reduction, linkage to care and recovery supports. Proposals were due December 22, 2025. An MPHD review panel has reviewed and scored the proposals and will make award recommendations shortly.

Create Healthier Community Environments

Disaster Recovery Centers

Metro Public Health Department employees from the Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness (CDEP) and Environmental Health bureaus have been staffing two Metro Disaster Recovery Centers since Tuesday. The centers are designed for residents to access Metro services while working toward recovery from the recent winter storm. MPHD staff are administering flu shots and providing food safety information to those who attend the Disaster Recovery Centers which are open from 9-6 pm on weekdays, and on Saturday from 9-3.

Organizational Updates

MACC Services during winter storm

Staff at Metro Animal Care and Control worked through the winter storm to ensure animals both currently at the shelter and those in need outside of the shelter got the care they needed. Despite four days of closures, staff from MACC were present at the shelter each

day of the storm. Those who were able to make it to the shelter did so, meaning cleaning and feeding assignments were done by a much smaller crew than usual. Animal Control teams continued to respond to emergency calls for service as they were able to safely do so, taking in several animals throughout the wintry weather. All live intakes during the storm were returned to their families within the defined stray hold timeline.

Oracle Cloud System

MPHD's Finance and Administration team and Human Resources team has been hard at work ensuring MPHD's transition to the Oracle Cloud System is as seamless as possible. The new system has several new facets that have required ongoing support with the entire MPHD team. HR and Finance held a Supervisors and Managers Meeting to answer questions and provide additional support with the updated system. Throughout the transition, priority has been placed on ensuring continuity in employee pay and MPHD general operations.