

Director's Update to the Board of Health

June 2026

Protecting Health – Preventing the Spread of Infectious Disease

Hantavirus/Ebola

The Metro Public Health Department continues to follow the latest in the world's fight against Hantavirus and Ebola. The threat from the Hantavirus incident is extremely low in Nashville. And, currently, so is the threat to the Ebola outbreak. However, our team is prepared to step in wherever needed if the situation changes. To date, no cases of Andes virus, the type of Hantavirus found on a cruise ship in May, have been confirmed in the United States as a result of the outbreak. According to the CDC, all exposed passengers are being monitored by public health officials. To date, no cases of Ebola have been confirmed in the United States as a result of the current outbreak in areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

Activities at PRIDE

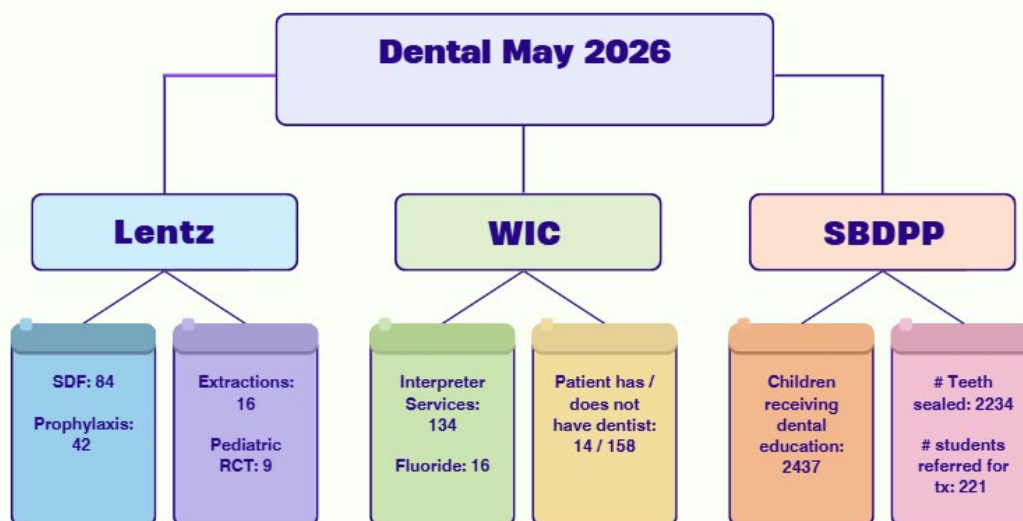
The Metro Public Health Department is once again participating in this year's PRIDE celebration at the end of June. Free STI testing will be available, along with education and safe sex supplies like condoms. Counseling for PrEP services will be available as will Naloxone. This year's celebration will be held on Saturday, June 27th at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park.

In-School Vaccine Clinics

The Metro Public Health Department's Mobile Services team is offering back to school vaccine and physicals at locations all across Nashville this summer. This month the team will be at Hunters Lane High School, Glencliff High School, McKissick Middle School and Antioch High School. Clinics at these locations will offer all the vaccinations students need for school, along with physicals for those covered by TennCare or are uninsured or underinsured. In 2025, more than 1,200 vaccines were administered at the team's portable clinics, with more than 600 students getting the vaccines or physicals they need.

Improve and Sustain Family and Child Well-Being

Dental Update



Promote and Support Healthier Living

Departmental Readiness Initiative

The Metro Public Health Department is working to build a culture where all employees recognize and understand the role they may play in supporting emergency operations, currently known as departmental readiness. Recent events, including Ice Storm Fern, demonstrated that MPHD may be called upon to support citywide emergency response efforts. Work is being completed now so details like overtime pay, staffing, communications and other necessities are ironed out ahead of time, allowing employees to respond most effectively. In addition to emergency clinical needs, potential roles for MPHD non-clinical staff include: call center operations, data collection and entry, shift scheduling and workforce coordination, shelter support, supply chain and logistics support. Departmental Readiness ensures that every MPHD employee understands how they can contribute during emergencies, helping us provide a coordinated and effective response when our community needs us most.

Create Healthier Community Environments

Gun Violence Awareness Month

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month and the Metro Public Health Department is marking the occasion in several ways. Many employees were seen wearing orange on Friday, June 5th in observance of Gun Violence Awareness Day. MPHD's Behavioral Health and Wellness

Team works closely with several community partners to address root causes of violence. Through a collaboration with Metro Police, members of the Behavioral Health and Wellness team conduct customized notifications to suspects and victims of acts of violence. The team brings resources like career assistance, food resources and referrals to mental health providers to these meetings, known as Custom Notifications. So far in 2026, more than 40 custom notifications have been made. For 87.07% of those contacted through these custom notifications over the past year and a half, no further arrests were recorded.

Community Safety Task Force

The meetings of the Community Safety Task Force will wrap up this month, with recommendations expected in the coming months. The Metro Public Health Department has been working with the task force to aid in executing meetings and ensuring the task force has what they need to do their work. The Task Force was assembled by Mayor Freddie O'Connell in order to create a comprehensive Community Safety Plan. The last few meetings have been work sessions where the Task Force has put together recommendations for the plan. After the conclusion of Task Force meetings, the plan is expected to be presented in the next few months.

Organizational Updates

Kinkajou at MACC

The Metro Animal Care and Control team worked with an unusual animal this month when a kinkajou was taken in. A resident called MACC to report the South American animal in their garage, telling MACC they did not know where it came from. MACC took it in and worked to find a home for the animal. After working with different rescue organizations and zoos, a home was found in Florida for the kinkajou. This past week the kinkajou was brought to a sanctuary in Florida, where a former MACC volunteer helped in the transfer to its new home.



Dental Rocks

The Lentz Dental Clinic placed some decorative rocks with encouraging messages in front of the Lentz Public Health Center. Messages like finding inner peace, gratefulness and kindness greet people as they walk into Lentz.



Kinley Award

Congratulations to Kinley Reed, PHEP Epidemiologist, for being the recipient of the Presidential Priorities Award at the National Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Conference (CSTE). The CSTE President honors a speaker that best represents a chosen priority area for the current year's conference. This year's priority area focused on the value of partnerships, which Kinley exemplified in her investigation of toxic decorating dust in a middle TN bakery. This investigation involved teamwork from MPHD, TDH, Department of Agriculture, and the bakery and showcased the incredible work between these groups at the local and state levels to identify the root cause, prevent further illnesses, and provide

the necessary education. We are proud to have Kinley recognized with this award for her outstanding work.

