

Director's Update to the Board of Health

July 2026

Protecting Health – Preventing the Spread of Infectious Disease

Ebola monitoring

Tennessee is currently monitoring residents who have returned from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Uganda, and South Sudan. These countries are experiencing an outbreak of Bundibugyo Viral Disease (Ebola). CDC has requested state and local health departments to assess and if needed, monitor returning travelers for the full 21-day incubation period. Several persons have completed their 21-day monitoring period, with others still completing that period. Those who are low-risk have been instructed to contact MPH/D if they become symptomatic, while high-risk travelers would receive periodic check-ins from public health staff.

Activities at PRIDE

The STI/HIV Program proudly celebrated another successful participation in this year's PRIDE celebration, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to community engagement, health education, and equitable access to sexual health services. This year's PRIDE celebration, held as a one-day event, provided an important opportunity to connect with the PRIDE community by promoting sexual health awareness, prevention, and access to testing services. During the outreach, the program provided services to 89 individuals, including 86 oral gonorrhea and chlamydia screenings, 22 urine gonorrhea and chlamydia screenings, and 81 OraQuick HIV screenings. Many team members also volunteered to remain beyond their scheduled shifts to provide additional outreach support, reflecting their dedication to serving the community and ensuring the event's success.

Mobile Outreach Clinical Services

Our Mobile Outreach Clinical Services (MOCS) unit will take part in our first event on Saturday, August 15th at the WALC Annual Health Village Fair. We are excited to bring additional opportunities to our community through extended hours and mobile operations through our state-of-the-art mobile unit. The unit will allow increased access to services like immunizations, sexual health screenings, family planning, Narcan distribution and more. A schedule for mobile service offerings will be announced at a later date.

Organizations and entities interested in hosting the mobile services unit at their location should contact MPH/D to schedule a visit from the unit.

Improve and Sustain Family and Child Well-Being

Back-to-School Vaccine Clinics

Starting August 3rd, 2026, through August 28, 2026, all three preventive health locations (East, Lentz 120, and Woodbine) will offer extended hours to accommodate back to school vaccination clinics. See below flyers for individual schedules.

East Public Health Center Back to School Immunization Clinics Phone: 615-862-7916



Dates:

- 8/4, 8/11, 8/18 & 8/25

Time:

- Tuesdays: 8 AM – 6 PM



What to Bring :

- BRING ID
- PREVIOUS SHOT RECORDS
- APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

Please be aware: Parent or legal guardian needs to be present for all immunization visits

School Physicals:

Neighborhood Health

Phone: 615-227-3000 Website: neighborhoodhealthtn.org
(Locations all over Davidson County based on sliding fee scale)

Siloam Health

2717 MURFREESBORO PIKE
ANTIOCH, TN 37013
Phone: 615-747-6035
Please call for an appointment!

Metro Health Clinic Locations:

East Public Health

1015 East Trinity Lane
Nashville, TN 37216
615-862-7916

Woodbine Public Health

224 Oriel Ave
Nashville, TN 37210
615-862-7940

Lentz Public Health

2500 Charlotte Ave
Nashville, TN 37209
615-340-5607

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: HEALTH.NASHVILLE.GOV

**Lentz Public Health Center
Back to School Immunization Clinics
Phone: 615-340-5607**



Dates:

- AUGUST 3rd to AUGUST 28th

Time:

- 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM



What to Bring :

- BRING ID
- PREVIOUS SHOT RECORDS
- APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

School Physicals:

Neighborhood Health

Phone: 615-227-3000 **Website:** neighborhoodhealthtn.org
(Locations all over Davidson County based on sliding fee scale)

Metro Health Clinic Locations:

East Public Health
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Nashville, TN 37216
615-862-7916

Woodbine Public Health
224 Oriol Ave
Nashville, TN 37210
615-862-7940

Lentz Public Health
2500 Charlotte Ave
Nashville, TN 37209
615-340-5607

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: HEALTH.NASHVILLE.GOV

**Woodbine Preventive Health Clinic
Back to School Immunization Clinics
Phone: 615-862-7940**



Dates:

- AUGUST 3rd to AUGUST 28th

Time:

- 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM



What to Bring :

- BRING ID
- PREVIOUS SHOT RECORDS
- APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

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Children's Special Services

We await a court decision on whether state health officials will be sending the information of minors without proper documentation in the Children's Special Services program to the State's department of safety. An injunction was extended last week through the 10th. A new state law requires entities providing public benefits to report those who are over 18 and are not properly documented to the state's immigration authorities. The law was set to go into effect on July 1st. Dozens of participants in MPHD's Children's Special Services program could be impacted.

Promote and Support Healthier Living

Nashville Strong Babies funding

MPHD is thankful to the Mayor's Office and Metro Council for approving an increase of \$250,000 for the Nashville Strong Babies program for the 2026-2027 budget year. The additional dollars are earmarked for doula services, for which an RFP is currently out. The program, which matches expecting families with care coordination and other services, was introduced in 2019 to help combat elevated infant and maternal mortality rates in seven specific Nashville zip codes. Since then, the program has expanded countywide, offering services like doulas, breastfeeding support, transportation and more. Since the program's introduction in 2019, no maternal deaths have been reported in families enrolled in the program.

Maternal Produce Prescription Program

MPHD is pursuing conditional approval from the Mayor's Office to submit a competitive application for the HRSA Maternal Produce Prescription Program (MP3); \$500,000/year for 4 years. MP3 would expand access to fruits and vegetables for over 1,000 pregnant women enrolled in WIC who experience food insecurity by partnering with existing food as medicine programs at Second Harvest Food Bank, Nashville General Hospital, and others. We are aware of several entities applying as well and plan to collaborate to maximize funding for Nashville.

Create Healthier Community Environments

West Nile Virus

The MPHD Pest Management Program has detected its first case of West Nile Virus for the year in a mosquito caught in a trap in North Nashville. Flyers were distributed to those in the area near the trap. Pest Management team members visited the area to drain standing water and deploy larvicide to kill off future mosquito offspring. West Nile Virus thrives most when more mosquitoes are present. Draining standing water and keeping grass cut short are ways to reduce the mosquito population in your backyard. Wearing bug repellent,

ensuring screens are in good condition and wearing long sleeves at dusk and dawn are ways to protect yourself and your family from mosquitoes. In 2025, Nashville saw its first human case of West Nile Virus in years.

Community Safety Task Force

The Community Safety Task Force wrapped up its regular set of meetings in June, developing 14 recommendations to make Nashville safer. Currently MPHD is working to turn the set of recommendations into a comprehensive Community Safety Plan. Once completed, the plan will be presented to the Task Force before it is presented to Mayor Freddie O'Connell. The Task Force, made up of a diverse group of people with a wide spectrum of perspectives, met for roughly six months taking into account data and programming to inform their recommendations.

Organizational Updates

Red Sand Project

As has become an annual tradition, the Metro Public Health Department will be participating in the eighth annual Red Sand Project during the last week of July. The Red Sand project allows participants to spread red sand into the cracks of sidewalks or pavement. This creates a visual representation of individuals that are “falling through the cracks” in recognizing human trafficking. Human trafficking is a 150-billion-dollar industry and in the United States, a child is sold for sex every 2 Minutes. We hope that the sand can spark a larger conversation about how we can raise awareness of the signs of human trafficking and help to spread the importance of reporting individuals that we believe to be involved in human trafficking. The event will provide individually packaged and group sand options to allow for maximum participation. We encourage you to take pictures to share with others around the state and country. Please send any pictures taken to laura.varnier@nashville.gov. Learn more about the Red Sand project here:

<https://redsandproject.org/>

Women-Friendly Workplace Initiative

MPHD's employee base is roughly 80% female, and the department is taking strides to ensure the workplace is as woman-friendly as possible. A committee was formed for the purpose of consider ways the department can support women. A survey was sent to staff asking what a woman-friendly workplace means to them. Those responses are being analyzed and will be discussed at the committee's next meeting.