Director's Update to the Board of Health
November 2026

Protecting Health – Preventing the Spread of Infectious Disease

Measles

The Metro Public Health Department informed the community of several potential measles exposures after a case of the disease was confirmed. The case, which was unvaccinated and had a history of international travel, has been in isolation since the case was confirmed. Prior to the case's test being confirmed, they reported going to several public places, including a healthcare facility, a restaurant, a grocery store and a Halloween party. The public was informed to monitor for symptoms if they were present at any of those locations during the specified time period. MPHD also received lists of those who had appointments or worked at the specific locations for some of the exposure sites, making contact tracing and investigation more efficient. MPHD also took this opportunity to remind the community of the effectiveness of the Mumps-Measles-Rubella, or MMR, vaccine. Receiving two doses of the MMR vaccine is about 97% effective at preventing measles; one dose is about 93% effective.

Fight Flu Day/flu shots

This year's Fight Flu Day ended with 640 people receiving their flu shot, an increase over 2025's numbers. The event, held on October 20th, invited people to receive their flu shot free of charge at either the Lentz Public Health Center or the Goodlettsville branch of the Nashville Public Library. Fight Flu Day is part of a statewide effort to offer flu shots to the public at public health centers across the state. The day also allows MPHD's Public Health Emergency Preparedness team to update emergency vaccination plans. Following the Fight Flu Day event, flu shots are now available free of charge in MPHD preventive health clinics and on our Mobile Outreach Clinical Services unit though the rest of flu season. Preventive Health Clinics have been administering flu shots since mid-September. As of this week, MPHD has administered 1,737 flu shots.

Improve and Sustain Family and Child Well-Being

WIC and Dollar General

The Davidson County WIC program at MPHD is now serving clients at Dollar General for the first time. The first Dollar General store to begin accepting WIC benefits in Davidson County is the one location at 3201 Old Hickory Boulevard. As part of the authorization process, WIC requires vendors to meet specific stocking standards. Dollar General has adjusted to ensure many of its stores meet these requirements, enhancing the nutritional quality of

available foods for WIC participants as well as the broader community. There are 39 Dollar General locations in Davidson County that meet these criteria. The WIC Program is hoping to add a few more Dollar General stores in the near future.

Firearm Injury Prevention
In October, the Child Death Review (CDR) program distributed 1,000 gunlocks to the Cumberland Valley Safe Kids Coalition. Through partnerships with healthcare and community stakeholders, including VUMC and Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital, these resources will expand access to safe firearm storage and support efforts to prevent firearm-related injuries and deaths among children.

Promote and Support Healthier Living

World AIDS Day
December 1st is once again World AIDS Day and the Metro Public Health Department will be once again observing the occasion. MPHD's Ryan White Part A program will be presenting data around HIV and AIDS on December 1st from 10am to noon in the Centennial Rooms. The data presented will be about both local and national trends in the world of HIV/AIDS. Since 1988, communities across the world have stood together on World AIDS Day to show strength and solidarity against HIV stigma and to remember lives lost.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October marked Breast Cancer Awareness Month across the world, an important time of the year for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening team at MPHD. This past October, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening team navigated 36 women through breast screening or diagnostic imaging at our events at Nashville General Hospital Breast Center and Nashville Healthcare Diagnostic Imaging Center, part of the more than 120 referrals processed this year. The team also promoted breast health through attendance at 10 community outreach events and held our annual "MPHD Pink Out" days at all 4 of our MPHD locations. Nashville's program ensures low-income, uninsured individuals gain access to timely breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services year-round.

Create Healthier Community Environments
Departmental Readiness
MPHD hosted American Red Cross Disaster Health Support professionals on Thursday, Nov. 5, for emergency shelter training. Over 40 MPHD medical and non-medical staff learned about shelter planning, operations, and troubleshooting common challenges. This training is the first of many as MPHD continues to build a culture of Departmental

Readiness, borne from our experience serving at emergency shelters during last winter's ice storm.

Mobile Outreach Clinical Services Unit
The Mobile Outreach Clinical Services (MOCS) Unit continues to offer clinical services to the community all across Nashville. At the recent MOCS event on November 7th, 56 patients were served. Vaccines, family planning and sexual health services were among the services offered to those who attended the event. The community is encouraged to visit the MOCS Unit when it is convenient for them, as several events are planned each week. Upcoming events can be found at Nashville.gov/mobileservices.

Organizational Updates

Informatics Capacity Building and Modernization
The Epidemiology, Strategic Performance, Policy and Evaluation Bureau continues to advance the department's data modernization agenda through complementary assessment initiatives. A PHIG-funded Data Inventory and Workflow Assessment Lead has been hired to evaluate departmental data assets, systems, workflows, and data-sharing practices, identifying opportunities to improve efficiency, strengthen governance, and reduce risk. Concurrently, staff across all bureaus are participating in the Public Health Informatics Institute's Informatics Capability Maturity Assessment to evaluate organizational readiness, workforce capacity, and informatics capabilities. Together, these efforts will inform a strategic roadmap for strengthening the department's data and informatics infrastructure.

PHAB Reaccreditation Readiness
The department continues to make steady progress toward PHAB reaccreditation. Readiness tracking tools are being used to monitor document development, quality review, and submission activities. To date, evidence has been identified and advanced into review for nearly 48% of the 89 required measures, positioning the department to maintain momentum toward successful reaccreditation.

MACC Service Changes
Metro Animal Care and Control announced changes to service hours for Animal Control Officers (ACOs) as the shelter works through staffing challenges. The changes, which reduce the hours ACOs respond to calls for service, will allow MACC to maximize the efforts during the hours when the most calls for service are made. Coverage will expand when more officers are hired and trained. MACC will continue to work closely with the Office of Emergency Management and the Metro Nashville Police Department regarding after-hour animal-related calls in lieu of the shortage of Animal Control Officers. MACC

continues to encourage the animal loving community in Nashville to call the shelter and leave a detailed message for any animal related concerns. Any messages left after hours will be checked as soon as staff are back in the building. Other ways the community can help the pet population in Nashville include ensuring all family pets are microchipped with up-to-date information, taking lost animals to the nearest veterinary clinic to check for a microchip and checking and posting all lost or found animals on neighborhood lost and found social media pages.

NACCHO Board of Directors

I have been informed of my appointment to the Board of Directors of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). This is an interim appointment to the At-Large position representing health departments serving 500,000+ residents. I consider it a huge honor to be considered and appointed to the role and look forward to serving on the board.