Director's Update to the Board of Health
October 2026

Protecting Health – Preventing the Spread of Infectious Disease

Fight Flu Day/flu shots

This past Tuesday, MPHD offered free flu shots ahead of the Metro Council Meeting, administering 81 flu shots at the event. That compares to 68 administered the year before at this same event. The event was a chance to promote this year's Fight Flu Day event, held on Tuesday, October 20th. Flu shots will be available free of charge at the Lentz Public Health Center from 7:30am to 6pm for both drive-thru and walk-up patients. Free flu shots will also be available at the Goodlettsville Public Library from noon to 6pm on a walk-up basis. Last year's Fight Flu Day event ended with 621 flu shots administered at five different locations. Flu shots will be available free of charge in MPHD preventive health clinics and on our Mobile Outreach Clinical Services unit from October 29th though the rest of flu season. Preventive Health Clinics have been administering flu shots since mid-September.

MACC Rabies Clinic

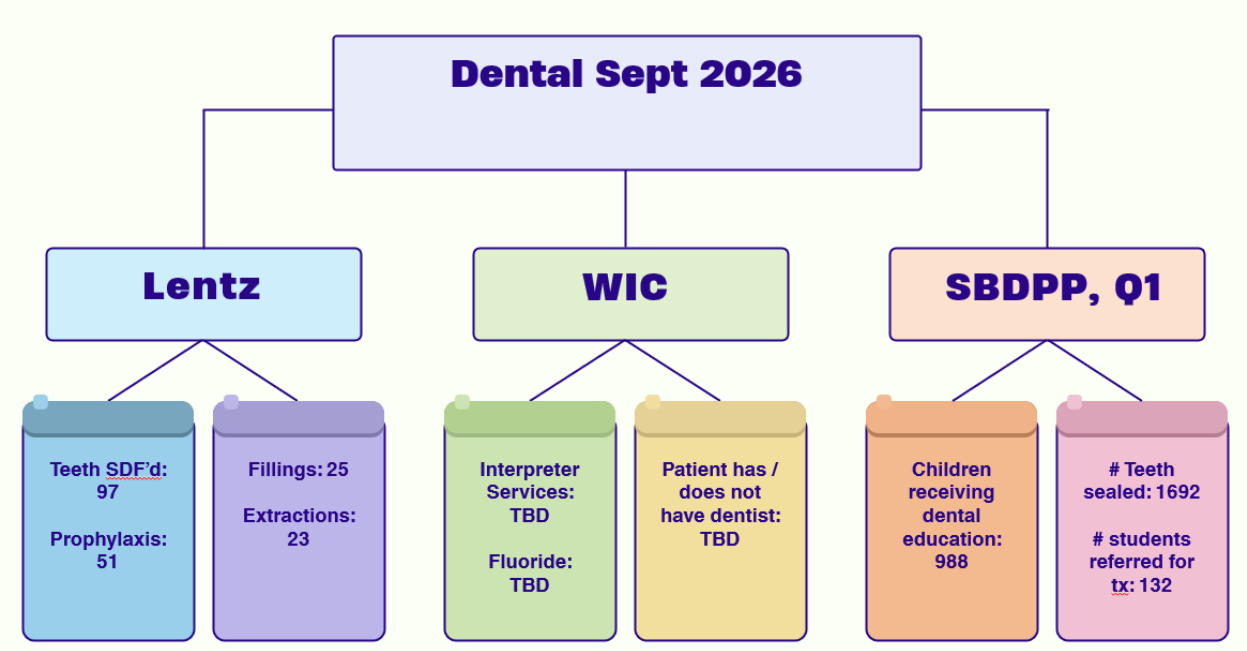
MACC had their second straight rabies clinic with over 120 participants showing up on September 26th. In past years, MACC's rabies clinics would serve less than 50 pet owners. The event allows participants to get their pets vaccinated against rabies and get a microchip implanted into their pet. The low-cost option helps ensure the threat of rabies remains minimal and lost animals can be found through the use of microchips. The turnout at the last two rabies and microchip clinics has been much larger than in the past, likely thanks to media attention and outreach. The next Rabies and Microchip clinic will be held December 12th.

Improve and Sustain Family and Child Well-Being

Dental Sterilization Room

The Lentz Dental Clinic has officially begun demolition to make way for a new sterilization room designed to improve patient safety, infection control, and overall clinical efficiency. The renovation will allow us to establish a clear separation between contaminated instruments and clean, sterilized equipment, eliminating the potential for cross-contamination and bringing our workspace into alignment with applicable OSHA and infection prevention standards. Demolition began last week, and we anticipate completing the project in the next week or two. This much-needed upgrade is another step toward providing a safe, modern clinical environment for our patients and staff.

Oral Health Programmatic Stats



Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

October is National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month, a time for remembrance and supporting grieving families. The Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) acknowledges those little ones gone too soon with a special Remembrance Clothesline at Lentz Public Health Department that will be strung with onesies. The FIMR team reviews fetal and infant deaths in Davidson County and develops system-level prevention strategies to improve maternal and infant health. FIMR also incorporates family stories into their reviews to give the community a voice. Many mothers describe the interview process as healing, appreciating the opportunity to share their story and honor their baby's memory. The community is invited to wear purple on October 15th in honor of pregnancy and infant loss and its profound impact on our community. FIMR has a table in the lobby to decorate onesies in honor of a little one in your life who didn't make it to their first birthday. There are also candles to take home to participate in the National Wave of Light. In the United States, 1 in 4 pregnancies ends in miscarriage while 1 in 150 results in a stillbirth.

Promote and Support Healthier Living

Preparedness Month

The MPHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness team worked to highlight Preparedness Month in September, focusing on employee understanding of preparedness. The PHEP team distributed emergency kit backpacks to employees who completed various preparedness activities. A total of 53 activities were completed and submitted across the

week of events, with 37 unique individuals completed at least one activity. All participants received an emergency kit as a result.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
The Tennessee Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (TBCSP) provides free breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to eligible individuals. The program is implemented using a network of coordinators, enrollment sites, and screening providers across the state. During October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, TBCSP aims to spread information, education, and resources throughout the community. The Davidson County TBCSP team will be sharing our message at numerous churches, health fairs, and screening events around town. On October 21st, we will be commemorating the occasion with our annual "Pink Out" staff photo at the Lentz Public Health Center. In addition, we will be participating in the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on October 10th.

Create Healthier Community Environments

Mobile Outreach Clinical Services
The Mobile Outreach Clinical Services unit has continued serving the community, with more than a full month of events already complete. The unit, which started offering many of the services our preventive health clinics and sexual health center offer in August, has held eight different events throughout the community. The unit, which arrived earlier this year, offers immunizations, family planning services, STI screenings, Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings, Narcan, gun locks and more. For a complete list of planned events, visit Nashville.gov/mobileservices.

Organizational Updates

Grand Rounds
MPHD held its first Grand Rounds event earlier this week, welcoming a presentation from the Jarrard Group on trust in healthcare, an MPHD presentation on local vaccination rates and a panel of experts to discuss vaccination. The panel was moderated by Blake Farmer of WPLN in Nashville, posing questions to panelists with a wide variety of experiences and backgrounds in health. The panel discussion was followed by a session discussing several different tools developed and shared by research team members at Johns Hopkins, highlighting some of what has worked in other healthcare settings. MPHD hosted Grand Rounds discussions in the past, and this return of the series is a chance to lead and host more conversations to better address the community's health issues.

Strategic Plan
MPHD presented our 2026-2030 Strategic Plan to the Public Health and Safety committee

at the Metro Council meeting on Tuesday. MPHD's Chief Health Strategist laid out the process that led the department to its plan, answering several questions from committee members about the plan along the way. Check-ins are occurring now with different parts of the department to ensure progress is made. Various timelines ensure progress can be recorded throughout the plan's five year existence.

TPHA Presentation

In September Metro Public Health Department Population Health Bureau Director D'Yuanna Allen-Robb facilitated the opening plenary session at the Tennessee Public Health Association Annual Conference, a session entitled "Public Health and AI in Tennessee: Responsible, Effective and Ethical Use." The engaging session featured audience polling and lively dialogue about the role of artificial intelligence in advancing public health in Tennessee. The panelists included Dr. Ashish Joshi, Dean and Distinguished Professor, University of Memphis School of Public Health; Nicholas Swope, Founder of Backyard-AI Public Health; John Griffey, Metro Chief Information Officer and MPHD Chief Epidemiologist, Brook McKelvey. The session highlighted professional interests and concerns using AI and best practices for engagement.

Continuing Education Learning Series

MPHD's Continuing Education Learning Series (CELS) held its 6th session on September 30, 2026. The theme was "Healthy Aging: A Public Health Perspective." Speakers represented multiple institutions, including the Detroit Department of Health, the Tennessee Department of Disability and Aging, Middle Tennessee State University, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Age Well Tennessee, and MPHD. The session was well attended, with active and engaged participation both in person and online.

