



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

The Department of Health and Senior Services serves the citizens of Missouri by working to improve the health and quality of life for Missourians of all ages.

Many factors influence health status:

- individual genetics and behaviors
- social environment
- physical environment
- policies and interventions
- access to quality care and services

By providing information and education; effective regulation and oversight; quality services and surveillance of diseases and conditions, the department seeks to address these factors and fulfill its vision of healthy Missourians for life.

Organization

The department is organized into three programmatic divisions: Community and Public Health, Regulation and Licensure and Senior and Disability Services.

The *Division of Community and Public Health* administers programs that impact family health, the prevention of chronic diseases, nutrition and other programs that improve the health of communities. It is also the principal unit involved in the surveillance and investigation of the cause, origin, and method of transmission of communicable (or infectious) diseases and environmentally related medical conditions.

The *Division of Regulation and Licensure* The Division of Regulation and Licensure is responsible for assuring that the health facilities across the state including hospitals, ambulatory care centers, laboratories, home health/hospice agencies, long term care facilities (including skilled care, assisted living, residential care, and intermediate care for individuals with intellectual disabilities), adult day care providers, and emergency medical service agencies provide care that in compliance with state and/or federal standards. The Division manages registration/licensure programs for EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians), Paramedics, Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), and those authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances. The Division also facilitates the Board of Nursing Home Administrators, Family Care Safety Registry, Supplemental Health Care Staffing Agency Program, and the Certificate of Need program, which supports the Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee.

The *Division of Senior and Disability Services* investigates allegations of elder abuse and administers programs designed to maximize independence and safety for adults who are at risk of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation or have long-term care needs that can be safely met in the community.

The *Division of Cannabis Regulation* administers Missouri's cannabis programs in alignment with Article XIV of the Missouri Constitution in order to have a program that provides safe and secure access to cannabis.

The *Division of State Public Health Laboratory* is a state of the art Biosafety Level 3 laboratory that serves the citizens of Missouri and its visitors to keep them safe. Our highly trained scientists and support staff process almost 300,000 samples each year and report over seven million results annually. We are a leader in the state for acquiring and implementing advanced technologies or methodologies to conduct our full menu of testing. These testing services include the detection of newly emerging or reemerging diseases like Ebola, mpox, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), water and foodborne diseases, rabies, influenza, antibiotic-resistant and drug-resistant bacteria, sexually transmitted infections, Legionella, tuberculosis, evaluating clinical and environmental samples for the presence of fentanyl, chemical contaminants, radiological contamination, biological or chemical terrorism agents as well as the screening of each baby born in the state of Missouri for over 70 newborn screening disorders.

The *Office of Emergency Coordination* coordinates regional and state planning for public health emergencies and natural disasters, including biological, chemical and nuclear terrorism. Through partnerships with hospitals and other healthcare organizations, local entities including government and law enforcement agencies, and other partners, the department works to ensure systems are in place to protect the health of Missourians during a public health emergency.

Partners

Creating healthy communities takes partnership with a wide range of public and private partners at the local, state and national levels. Government, businesses, schools, the health-care industry and citizens all must work together to ensure that health is a priority and communities have the environment to support good health and quality of life.

Local Public Health Agencies work with policy makers, agencies, and the public to support and strengthen Missouri's public health system. The department's *Center for Local Public Health Services* administers contracts with local public health agencies for implementation of core public health functions such as restaurant inspections, disease detection and investigation and providing health information to the community.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) partner with local public health agencies to provide local leadership. AAAs develop and administer programs to seniors age 60 and over who are of greatest social or economic need with special emphasis on serving low income and minority seniors.