

Visit the [LPHA Info Hub](#) for news and links to resources.

UPDATES

Acting Director Sarah Willson started at DHSS today. She will combine regulatory and healthcare expertise with an appreciation for public health to lead DHSS. As part of Governor Kehoe's cabinet, we are excited to see how her experience will continue the momentum toward improving our public health system.

Flu activity is very high in Missouri, according to the [flu surveillance dashboard](#). Download [social media content](#) to help remind people to protect themselves and others from flu.

View poultry flocks and wild birds with confirmed H5N1 virus at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections>

February is Children's Dental Health Month – see new social media content in the [LPHA Hub Resource Library](#)

February Heart Health Month – see new social media content in the [LPHA Hub Resource Library](#)

VFC Training: DHSS will be taking the Vaccines for Children 411 Training on the road March 18 – June 25. This free training will improve your knowledge of immunizations and best practices for Missouri's Vaccine for Children (VFC) program. Each daily session runs 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with an hour lunch break on your own. Space is limited, so [register](#) today!

Free Environmental Exam: DHSS, Food Safety Task Force, and Environmental Health Association have teamed up to offer LPHA Environmental Health Specialists the opportunity to take the state certification exam at the 2025 MEHA Annual Education Conference at no charge. Application (\$25) and exam (\$50) fees will be covered by the Food Safety Task Force for the first 20 registrants. For [registration](#) and to learn more about the process to become certified visit <https://mehamo.org/certification-board-resources>.

Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mapping has been taking place across the state and workshops have been completed in all but Benton, DeKalb and Pettis counties. View results by clicking on a specific county on the [interactive map](#). The website may be used to help LPHAs with decisions about how to spend opioid settlement money. Make sure efforts clearly fall into allowable uses. There are 12 pages of pretty specific ideas [Opioid Settlement Allowable Uses & Reporting Codes](#). Dollars are limited, so it will be important to include as many people and organizations as possible at the table to discuss potential strategies.

NEWS

2/13/2025: Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has been officially sworn in as leader of the nation's leading public health department. <https://tinyurl.com/2ewykmtk>

2/13/2025: President Trump signs an executive order establishing “The President’s Commission to Make America Healthy Again” commission to investigate the increase in childhood chronic illness and develop an action plan. <https://tinyurl.com/b4tmn78k>

2/13/2025: Louisiana’s surgeon general directs the state health department to stop using media and health fairs to promote vaccinations against preventable diseases. <https://tinyurl.com/bdhb9b2n>

2/13/2025: Public health officials are investigating reports of a small potential increase in neurologic complications of influenza in children -- specifically a rapidly progressing and dangerous condition called acute necrotizing encephalopathy (ANE). <https://tinyurl.com/hudbwdz3>

2/13/2025: MMWR releases a study of veterinarians that found some with H5N1 and no known exposure to cases of the virus in cattle, suggesting there might be infected dairy cattle in states where cases have not yet been identified. <https://tinyurl.com/4enttp2>

2/12/2025: Ads for marijuana on social media and websites are targeting youth with illustrations, food and flavor references, links to sports, and depictions of heavy cannabis use and positive sensations from that use. <https://tinyurl.com/mvhwv5vy>

RESOURCES

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (CHRR) data remain accessible, including [a list of all measures](#) or [downloadable data](#) or [health data by location](#).

“Make the Grade” education campaign encourages students to practice healthy behaviors to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses. Download and use resources from DHSS and Elasticity, including posters, social media content and more. <https://health.mo.gov/living/families/schoolhealth/make-the-grade.php>

Consider career honeycombs and other strategies to improve public health employee retention. [Learn more](#) from ASTHO.

WEBINARS/TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Feb 18, 2:00 pm, **Building Power through Narrative**, hosted by CHRR. Learn how groups can build power and advance health and equity through narrative change. We’ll share training opportunities and resources on utilizing strategies in public health. [Register](#)

Feb 20, 12:00 – 1:15 pm, **Food Insecurity and Food Safety: Important Policy and Legislative Actions**. Hosted by Network for Public Health Law. States are increasingly adopting “food freedom” laws that exempt retailers like those at farmer’s markets and seaside docks from food safety regulations. At the same time, food waste and food insecurity are growing. Both the safety, and the health and wellness of

those living in the U.S., are threatened by these trends. Attend this webinar to learn about the food freedom trend along with law and policy levers that can reduce food waste and address food insecurity. [Register](#)

NEW! Feb 25, 1:00 pm, **Public Health and Private Sector Partnerships – Part 1: Chambers of Commerce: Who are they and why do they matter**, hosted by Public Health Communications Collaborative. [Register](#)

Mar 3 – 5, **Community Health Worker Association of Missouri Conference**. [Register](#)

NEW! Mar 25, 1:00 pm, **Public Health and Private Sector Partnerships – Part 2: Public Health and Chamber of Commerce**, hosted by Public Health Communications Collaborative. [Register](#)

NEW! Mar 26, 12:00 – 3:45 pm, **Insights to Practice: A Conference to Inspire Public Health Communications**, hosted by Public Health Communications Collaborative. Save the date. Registration details to be released soon.

April 1 – 2, **Rural Health Workforce Development Conference**, Missouri Rural Health Association. [Register](#)

April 2, 10:00 am, **Regional LPHA meeting** in Boone County; Save the date, details to come

April 3, 10:00 am, **Regional LPHA meeting** in Adair County; Save the date, details to come

April 16, 10:00 am, **Regional LPHA meeting** in Platte County; Save the date, details to come

April 30, 10:00 am, **Regional LPHA meeting** in Butler County; Save the date, details to come

May 1, 10:00 am, **Regional LPHA meeting** in St. Charles County; Save the date, details to come

May 6, 10:00 am, **Regional LPHA meeting** in Springfield-Greene County; Save the date, details to come

May 5 - 9, **Basic Inspections and Investigations Course for New Manufactured and Retail Regulators**. \$350 fee and class size limited to 18 people. [Register](#)

NEW! Sept 16 – 17, Missouri Rural Health Conference, Camdenton, MO. Save the date.