HENNEPIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health works to improve and protect the health of children, adolescents and adults who live, learn, work or play in Hennepin County. Our ultimate purpose is to promote physical and mental health, prevent illness and injury associated with communicable diseases and environmental conditions, reduce chronic diseases, and enhance the well-being of individuals affected by mental illnesses and serious emotional disturbances.

The department’s work is organized in three areas – Public Health Clinical Services, Public Health Protection & Promotion and Public Health Administration.

PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICAL SERVICES

Business Operations (Contact: cynthia.spolyar@hennepin.us)
Supports the Public Health Clinic, Health Care for the Homeless, Emergency Mental Health and the Mental Health Center for billing, reporting/data analytics, and support services.

Emergency Mental Health Services (Contact: kay.pitkin@hennepin.us)
Provides mobile services to avert mental health crises in the community and assess persons referred for commitment.

- **Child Crisis** — Serves children and youth (0-17 years) in mental health crisis and their families with 24 hour, 365-day on-site services to restore and maintain home, school and community functioning.

- **Community Outreach for Psychiatric Emergencies (COPE)** — Provides 24-7-365 on-site crisis services to adults (18 years and up) experiencing a psychiatric emergency. COPE manages crises and strives to decrease the need to refer clients out of their homes for more intensive care.

- **Prepetition Screening Program (PSP)** — Assesses and screens individuals being considered for commitment by the court because of serious problems related to mental health, chemical health and/or developmental disabilities. When possible, individuals are diverted to less restrictive, voluntary alternatives.

Health Care for the Homeless (Contact: dawnpetroskas@hennepin.us)
Provides acute medical care and supportive social services to homeless individuals at 11 community-based locations; and operates a Respite Program that provides a shelter bed and nursing care for homeless individuals recovering from illness or injury.
Mental Health Center (Contact: sally.kratz@hennepin.us)
Delivers psychiatric and other outpatient mental health services to children, adolescents and adults.

- **Mental Health Center** — Serves adults with serious mental illnesses including those with co-occurring substance abuse issues. It also works with children and adolescents who are emotionally disturbed, abused or neglected, or have been court ordered for psychological evaluation.

- **Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)** — Identifies and engages mentally ill clients living in shelters and connects them with needed psychiatric care.

- **Primary health care and care coordination services** — Provides care and referrals to clients without medical care homes to help them stay healthy.

Public Health Clinic (Contact: paula.nelson@hennepin.us)
Delivers health services to prevent, diagnose and treat communicable diseases and improve the health of county residents. Primary programs include:

- **Health Education** — Through its Safer Sex Initiative, addresses sexual health issues of women ages 13 to 19.

- **Hepatitis B Prevention** — Provides community education, testing and referral for those at highest risk of hepatitis B infection.

- **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Prevention** — Through its “Red Door Services,” provides adults with low cost, client centered, confidential HIV/STI counseling/testing services, linkage to ongoing medical care and supportive services for those with HIV infection.

- **Immunization Services** — Provides immunizations for un- and underinsured clients.

- **Prevention Grant Services** — Plans and delivers HIV and STD testing, education, linkage to care, programs, and services within the Public Health Clinic and through outreach in the community.

- **Refugee Health** — For newly arriving refugees, provides multilingual, multicultural assessment, treatment, and referral for communicable diseases and conditions affecting their health.

- **Tuberculosis Prevention** — Provides evaluation and treatment of latent and active tuberculosis infection.
Public Health Integrated Care (Contact: stephanie.abel@hennepin.us) Plans better ways to integrate primary care, behavioral health, social services, and case management supports between Public Health’s Clinical Services and the County’s Health Line of Business – Hennepin Health, Metropolitan Health Plan, NorthPoint, and Hennepin County Medical Center – and with other county systems such as HSPHD Adult and Children’s Behavioral Health and Corrections.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION & PROMOTION

Better Together Hennepin (Contact: kathleen.wick@hennepin.us) Builds supports that all young people need to delay parenthood by creating systems change and funding evidence-based programs.

Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) (Contact: Karen.Mayer@hennepin.us) Child and Teen Checkups provides outreach and assistance to enable well-child checkups for children and teens under the age of 21 who are on Medical Assistance. Its services include locating appropriate clinics, assisting in making dental and medical appointments, plus arranging for transportation to, and interpreters at, appointments if needed.

Emergency Preparedness (Contact: marcee.shaughnessy@hennepin.us) Plans and ensures that proper systems are in place to respond and protect the health and safety of county residents in public health emergencies.

Environmental Health (Contact: duane.hudson@hennepin.us) Licenses and inspects food, beverage and lodging facilities, septic systems, pools, camps, and body art businesses; addresses environmental threats including radon, lead, and mold; and public health nuisances such as meth labs and garbage houses.

Epidemiology, Assessment, ImmuLink (Contact: david.johnson2@hennepin.us) Monitors communicable diseases; collects, studies, uses and disseminates related information that support public health policies, practices and decision-making; investigates disease occurrences; implements control measures and guidelines; and through ImmuLink, provides comprehensive immunization services planning, managing, monitoring and mass distribution of vaccines.

Health Promotion (Contact: khatidja.dawood@hennepin.us) Partners with community organizations, schools, businesses, cities and clinics in Hennepin County to develop policies and programs that promote health and reduce chronic diseases. Areas of focus include clinical systems improvement, Health@School, Health@Work and Wellness for Every Body (physical activity and nutritional guidance for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities).
Maternal & Child Health/Early Childhood (Contact: karen.adamson@hennepin.us)
Provides a combination of programs that encompass prenatal, infant, early childhood and adolescent health including adolescent parenting, early childhood mental health, home health care visits, the Safe Sleep Campaign, the Birth Defect Registry and the Early Hearing Detection Intervention for Infants program.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (Contact: rolf.anderson@hennepin.us)
WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. Nutrition education is the cornerstone of this public health program that helps families put more fresh and healthy food on the table. WIC is designed to improve health for women and young children, and help families make positive nutrition and health decisions for a lifetime.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Administration and Public Health Practice (Contact: james.mara@hennepin.us)
Provides departmental administration services and performance management, and Community Health Improvement Program coordination.

Emergency Medical Services (Contact: kristin.mellstrom@hennepin.us)
Plans and regulates emergency medical services and works to ensure common standards for medical response and transportation.

Public Health Communication (Contact: bill.belknap@hennepin.us)
Provides strategic public information and communication planning, writing, editing, graphics and media services to support achievement of department objectives.

Ryan White Program (Contact: jonathan.hanft@hennepin.us)
Provides or coordinates services for people living with HIV or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS); administers and monitors federal funds to enable people living with HIV/AIDS to receive care in the metropolitan area and statewide; and provides staff support to the Minnesota HIV Services Planning Council.