



Public Information Release

Addressing Health Disparities

June 16, 2020

Madison County Public Health (MCPH) is committed to monitoring and responding to our community's health and wellness needs through innovative services, education, collaboration and compassionate care. In addition to managing our COVID-19 response, we continue to offer vital services to the county to improve the health of every community member. Public health reduces health care costs, improves quality of life, helps children develop, and reduces rates of disease.

Public health looks at the health of a community, instead of an individual. You go to the doctor when you are sick, but public health works on a population level to prevent injuries and illness by promoting healthy behaviors. Part of our health is influenced by our environment, economic status, and educational status. These are called the "Social Determinants of Health." Our work focuses on improving the overall health in every zip code across the county by addressing every social determinant of health.

Our Community Health Assessment (CHA), completed in November 2019, showed that Madison County has higher than average rates of infant mortality and students with incomplete immunizations. Breastfeeding and receiving prenatal care, which includes having access to pregnancy testing, are known to decrease infant mortality rates. On-time immunizations are critical in providing children with immunity before they are exposed to life-threatening diseases.

We use the data from the CHA to tailor the services we provide to the community. Many of our services are being provided remotely due to COVID-19. The following in-person services are available and require an appointment, which can be scheduled by calling the number listed:

- Immunizations, which are critical in protecting the population from preventable diseases. Call 740-852-3065.
- Sexual health, which includes STD testing, annual exams for men and women, pregnancy tests, and family planning services. All ages welcome. Call 740-852-3065.
- WIC, a nutrition and breastfeeding assistance program, is serving clients via curbside care. Services are available from pregnancy until the child turns 5. Call 614-381-5918.

MCPH is happy to provide masks to those who do not have a face covering while visiting us. Face coverings are an important public health initiative to decrease the spread of COVID-19.

MCPH is proud to serve all members of our community. We do not turn individuals away for inability to pay and offer generous sliding-fee scales for our services. For more information please visit madisonph.org. Connect with us at 740-852-3065, at info@madisonpublichealth.org, or on social media (@madisoncountyPH).