

OVERSEEING THE HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC

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As local Board of Health members, you have a critical role in overseeing the health of the public. The policy direction and leadership you provide will help us achieve the state vision of healthy people in healthy communities. This newsletter from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health is provided as a resource to you in this role.

Welcome

Welcome from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health to your role as a local Board of Health member. In Wisconsin, you play a critical role in assuring the health of all residents in your community. Staff in our Division are dedicated to working with you and your local health officers to assure that the public health essential services are available in every jurisdiction. The mission of our new Department of Health Services is: protecting and promoting the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin. The Division of Public Health works through 5 Regional Offices and Central Office to achieve this mission. We hope to soon have a new Division Administrator to continue this leadership role. Again, thank you for all you do to assess public health needs, set public health policy and assure the health of the public.

Tom Sieger, Wisconsin Division of Public Health Deputy Administrator

Greetings to new and ongoing Board of Health members in Wisconsin. As the State Health Officer I commend you for taking on this important role. My responsibilities as State Health Officer are outlined in statute. I am appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Health Services to “develop public health policy for the state and direct public health programs” (s. 250.01(9)). You have a similar role at the local level. I hope that I can connect with you to support the work you do at a local level to prevent disease and promote health.

Dr. Henry Anderson, Wisconsin State Health Officer

Did You Know:

That for every dollar invested in:

Water Fluoridation saves as much as \$80 in treatment cost for dental caries for one child. (CDC, An Ounce of Prevention, 1999)

Influenza Vaccination saves \$30 to \$60 in hospitalization costs for an older adult (CDC).

Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccination saves \$16.34 in direct medical costs (CDC).

Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus (DPT) vaccination saves \$6.21 in direct medical costs (CDC).

Family Planning Services saves \$4.40 in public funds for averting medical, welfare and nutritional costs. (Healthy Minnesotans 2004)

Tobacco prevention saves \$3.00 in direct health costs. (ANSR Action Alert 2003)

Chickenpox Vaccination saves up to \$5.40 in parent productivity losses and medical costs (CDC).

WIC services for pregnant women saves \$1.92—\$4.21 in Medical Assistant funds for a mother and her newborn. (Nat’l Assoc. of WIC Directors)



Board of Health Member resource: Do you want more information on your role as a Board of Health member? Go to the website at dhs.wi.gov/localhealth/BOHOrientation/index.htm. On this site are a variety of resources, training materials and contacts.

Wisconsin's Public Health Statutes

Wisconsin's Public Health Statutes underwent an extensive review and rewrite in the mid-1990's. As a result of this effort, the Wisconsin's public health statutes are primarily found in six chapters of the Wisconsin State Statutes. These chapters are:

Chapter 250—Health; Administration and Supervision

Chapter 251—Local Health Officials

Chapter 252—Communicable Diseases

Chapter 253—Maternal and Child Health

Chapter 254—Environmental Health

Chapter 255—Chronic Disease and Injuries

If you as a Board of Health member have an interest in finding out more about your Board's make up, powers, duties and requirements you can refer to Chapter 251 "Local Health Officials" and find out more. Go to <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html> to access the most current version of the statutes.

Special Point of Interest: The first Board of Health Chairperson was Paul Revere.

It's Flu Shot Season!

Flu Shot Fast Facts:

- Flu vaccines cannot give you the flu. Some people coincidentally catch a cold a week or two following the immunization.
- If you develop the flu despite being immunized, the vaccine will still help reduce the complications.
- You need a flu shot every year to be sure that you are protected against new and emerging viruses.
- The flu is highly contagious—make sure that your loved ones are immunized too.
- People with diabetes should also get the pneumonia vaccine, because they are at a higher risk of developing pneumonia.

Leading Causes of Death in Wisconsin: 160 Years



1946	2006
Heart Disease	Heart Disease
Cancer	Cancer
Stroke	Stroke
Accidents	Unintentional Injury
Kidney Disease	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
Pneumonia	Alzheimer's
Diabetes	Diabetes
Prematurity and Birth Injury	Influenza and pneumonia
Tuberculosis	Kidney Disease
Atherosclerosis	Suicide
Average Age at Death: 61	Average Age at Death: 75

Source: Wisconsin Vital Records

For more information, contact your DPH Regional Office Director. Contact information available at: <http://dhfswb/DPH/regionaloffices.htm>