

GOVERNOR EVERS' 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Investing in Public Health

In the past year, the importance of a robust and responsive public health system has become clear to us all. We need a modern and well-funded public health system at all levels to protect our residents and communities from communicable diseases. The budget makes investments to shore up and strengthen Wisconsin's public health system to be able to respond to current and future communicable disease threats.

LOCAL AND TRIBAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE RESPONSE (\$10 MILLION)

Our local and tribal health departments are a primary line of defense keeping communities safe from infectious disease, but they are significantly underfunded. This ten-fold increase in state funding will help local and tribal health departments continue their COVID-19 response and be ready to respond to existing and emerging infectious diseases.

STATE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE RESPONSE (\$3.6 MILLION)

The current DHS staff of epidemiologists, disease intervention specialists, and infection prevention specialists have been indispensable during COVID-19, but they are stretched too thin. The budget would bolster our public health workforce with 36 full-time staff to work on Wisconsin-specific communicable disease outbreaks, sexually transmitted diseases, and drug-resistant infections in health care settings.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (\$567,200)

The budget increases grants to local municipal and non-profit EMS agencies to strengthen the first responders providing our emergency health services. It also converts State Trauma System staff to state funding to comply with federal guidelines.

DATA TO SUPPORT SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE (\$375,900)

Data is crucial to the early detection and tracking of communicable disease and in coordinating the care of individuals who are suffering from disease. The Governor's Budget enhances state resources for advanced data modeling and statistical analysis to provide early warning of diseases that are present in or a threat to come to Wisconsin.

HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE (\$1.3 MILLION)

The budget funds grants to support Health Information Exchange activities that allow health care providers and patients to appropriately access and securely share a patient's medical information.

HARM REDUCTION STRIKE TEAM (\$435,300)

The budget funds strike teams at DHS to respond to communicable diseases related to the opioid epidemic. By traveling to the location of the outbreak, the team will provide access to much-needed services, including vaccination, testing, counseling, and insurance enrollment.

For more information on all of Governor Evers' proposed investments in Wisconsin's health, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/budget