



What Does the Local Health Department Do in Your Community?

The Sheboygan County Division of Public Health, your local health department (LHD), is a leader in improving the health and well-being of your community. The Sheboygan County Division of Public Health:

- **Protects you from health threats, the everyday and the exceptional.** Your LHD guards multiple fronts to defend you from any health threat, regardless of the source, and works tirelessly to prevent disease outbreaks. Your LHD makes sure the restaurant food you eat, the water you drink and the air you breathe are all safe. It's ready to respond to community health emergencies—be it bioterrorism, H1N1 Influenza, SARS, West Nile Virus or an environmental hazard.

“Not content with merely a ‘clipboard’ role checking for compliance with regulations, Sheboygan County Environmental staff organize and conduct classes to advise restaurant managers how best to meet current food safety standards. The Sanitarians are resources as well as enforcers.”

“Immunizations to eliminate vaccine preventable diseases, such as polio, tetanus and chickenpox, are available to children and adults at the LHD. Due to the efforts of your LHD and community partners throughout Sheboygan County, record audits conducted in 2009 demonstrated that 82% of Sheboygan County 24-month-olds were up-to-date with their immunizations.”

- **Educates you and your neighbors about health issues.** Your LHD gives you information that allows you to make healthy decisions every day, like exercising more, eating right, quitting smoking or simply washing your hands to keep from spreading illness. Public Health Staff provide this information through public forums in your community, public service announcements in the media, programs in schools, health education in homes and clinics, and detailed web sites. During a public health emergency, your LHD provides important alerts and warnings to protect your health.

“Effective health education can be fun and can promote creativity and self-esteem. The Sheboygan County Division of Public Health Staff participates in a variety of community events and health fairs to address local health issues such as preparing for emergencies and pandemic flu, childhood lead poisoning, vaccine preventable diseases and the harmful effects of tobacco.”

- **Provides healthy solutions for everyone.** Your LHD offers the preventive care you need to avoid chronic disease and to help maintain your health. It helps pregnant women to obtain the prenatal care that gives their babies a healthy start. Your LHD also helps provide children with immunizations and good nutrition to help them grow and learn.

“Public Health staff work with community partners to assure Sheboygan County residents have access to quality health and dental care. Public Health Nurses visit pregnant woman to access prenatal health services in an effort to promote healthy newborns!”

WIC (Women, Infant and Children) provides supplemental nutritious foods and nutrition and breastfeeding information to nutritionally at risk pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children. In 2009, an average of 2382 Sheboygan County residents per month were served by the WIC program.

- **Advances community health.** Your LHD plays a vital role in developing new policies and standards that address existing and emerging challenges to your community's health while enforcing a range of laws intended to keep you safe. Your LHD is constantly working, through research and rigorous staff training, to maintain its unique expertise and deliver up-to-date, cutting-edge health programs.

“Tuberculosis disease continues to affect persons throughout the world with new drug resistant bacteria presenting unique treatment challenges. Staff from the Division of Public Health work closely with community partners to assure that TB surveillance, case follow-up and prevention efforts are in place.”