

Local Public Health Response to COVID-19

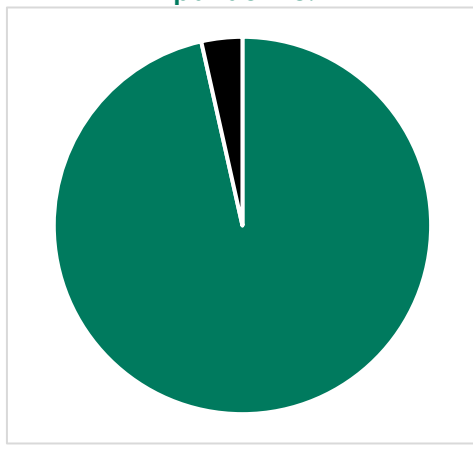


Responding to COVID-19 and other emergencies is a core mandated responsibility of Minnesota's local public health departments. Local public health agencies across the state have re-directed their staff due to COVID-19 and have been in full response mode since as early as January 2020. Public health services are necessary to maintain the health and safety of our communities.

Local Public Health has instituted a number of activities to respond to COVID-19, including:

- **Addressing Health Disparities** – Apply an equity lens to ensure disparities are not created or exacerbated.
- **Case Investigation and Contact Tracing** – Manage and follow positive cases and their contacts to prevent spread of virus.
- **Communications** – Communicate timely and accurate information with internal and external partners.
- **Community Engagement** – Lead education, address people's basic needs, and outreach to groups including long-term care, business, people experiencing homelessness, seniors, communities of color, and American Indians.
- **Continuing Services** – Establish telehealth options for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and MNCHOICES or LTCC assessments for seniors.
- **Epidemiological Surveillance** – Tracking and reporting where case outbreaks occur to understand how the virus is traveling and who is impacted.
- **Essential Services** – Oversee, regularly communicate with, and provide resources to those who are in quarantine (i.e. delivery of food, cleaning supplies, or prescription medication and transportation).
- **Incident Command** – Lead local incident command structures to respond to COVID-19, with regular meetings for planning and development of policies.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – Purchase and distribute PPE to protect staff and constituents.
- **Schools** – Provide ongoing support, information, and guidance to schools on safe in-person learning.
- **Supporting Mental Well Being** – Work to support mental well-being in communities.
- **Testing** – Connect people to testing, coordinate events, administer tests, and work with health providers.
- **Vaccinations** – Educate the community on vaccines, work with employers, reach populations at highest risk for COVID-19, and organize mass vaccination events.

88% of local public health agencies reported stopping or curtailing activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



About the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA) is a voluntary, non-profit organization that works to achieve a strong local public health system through leadership and collective advocacy on behalf of Minnesota's county, city and tribal local public health departments. The Association represents more than 230 public health directors, supervisors and community health services administrators throughout the state. LPHA is an affiliate of the Association of Minnesota Counties.

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