

# Public Health Supports Thriving Communities



## Everyone in Minnesota deserves to be their healthiest

Minnesota's quality of life depends on thriving, vibrant communities. Where we live provides the building blocks for long-term health and wellbeing, including protection from the spread of infectious diseases and environmental threats, clean water, strong schools, sustaining jobs, community connectedness, access to health care, and other important community support.

## A community of experts and leaders help shape the public's health

In public health, we work to change our surroundings for the better so that it's easier for all of us in Minnesota to be our healthiest no matter who we are or where we live.

**Diagnose:** Public health experts diagnose the health of each community by listening to people who live there—and then use data, evidence, and research to offer solutions.

**Cooperate:** Public health relies on cooperation. To improve the health of the community, different organizations have to work together. Public health brings them together to make decisions and take action.

**Prevent:** We often end up in the doctor's office after we're sick or injured. Public health experts investigate everything that affects our health to prevent health problems before they start.

## Minnesota's approach to public health is out of date

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature recognized the role and value of public health with a much-needed down payment on the state's public health system. This financial investment in the health of Minnesotans has been long overdue, yet more is needed to expand proven public health solutions across the state, continue to test innovative ways to deliver public health, and make sure communities have the resources and supports they need to thrive.

## There's nothing public health can't positively impact

Minnesota's public health system is a responsible and effective steward of its resources. When we prevent illness before it starts, the return we see in both health outcomes and monetary investment pays off: for Minnesotans, their families, our state's businesses, government, and more.

## We need to keep investing in a new approach to public health

We envision a seamless, responsive, publicly-supported public health system that works closely with the community to ensure healthy, safe, and vibrant communities. This system of state, local, and tribal health departments will help Minnesotans be healthy regardless of where they live. Turn the page to learn more.



# A Seamless, Responsive, Publicly-Supported Public Health System

**Imagine how healthy all Minnesotans could be if Minnesota could better prevent health problems before they start, by changing the policies, systems, and surroundings that impact Minnesotans' health.**

## **Vision of the Joint Leadership Team for Public Health System Transformation**

We envision a seamless, responsive, publicly-supported public health system that works closely with the community to ensure healthy, safe, and vibrant communities.

This system of state, local, and tribal health departments will help Minnesotans be healthy regardless of where they live.

## **What does a seamless, responsive, publicly-supported public health system look like?**

**A seamless public health system** works cohesively across jurisdictions, levels of government, geographies, sectors, and more.

Where you live shouldn't determine your level of public health protection, and every agency that helps shape opportunities for population health can work together to do so.

People, diseases, air, water, and soil aren't bound within jurisdictions—neither is public health.

**A responsive public health system** can react quickly and effectively to today's opportunities and challenges, plan for tomorrow's, and use lessons learned from the past to grow stronger and more capable.

**A publicly-supported public health system** has the trust and support of partners and community, and is accountable to itself and to others, in addition to having adequate funding and staffing to be effective.

