



Fact Sheet 3

Marion County Health Officials: Using Science to Protect People

Applying proven, cost-effective methods, health professionals at the Marion County Health Department prevent disease and avoid unnecessary medical expenditures. This fact sheet provides illustrative examples of how local public health protects the Marion County community.

Guards and protects against threats:

- Investigating disease outbreaks spread through the city's water supply, hotels, homes and businesses.
- Inspecting restaurants for safety and cleanliness.
- Screening pregnant women and children for costly, treatable and preventable diseases.
- Responding swiftly to health threats from natural disasters and terrorist attacks.
- Managing protection against meningitis, TB, whooping cough, pandemic flu and Lyme disease.

Provides leadership:

- Defending against emerging infections.
- Assuring that scarce flu vaccines reach people most at risk.
- Promoting health and disease prevention strategies.
- Advocating for better health through public policy.
- Empowering people and providing necessary preventive care.

Improves health and safety:

- Responding first when outbreaks occur.
- Preventing substance abuse.
- Examining wild animals for disease.
- Exterminating mosquitoes, rats and other disease-carrying threats.
- Checking seniors' blood pressure.
- Enforcing health and safety regulations.
- Providing life-saving vaccines to children.

Shares knowledge:

- Teaching people about nutrition and exercise.
- Cooperating with physicians, emergency personnel and hospitals.
- Training new professionals.
- Evaluating programs.
- Educating communities to help prevent diseases like HIV.

The Health Department is as necessary as police, firefighters and medical personnel to respond to emergencies and protect community health and safety. It is an essential and cost-effective public investment.