

Be part of
the team that
makes life better.



Public health
makes life better.

Join Missouri's public health team as a public health nurse and start making life better for your community, your neighbors ... and yourself.

Opportunities for a Missouri public health nursing career can be found at both the state and local level. Information about positions and opportunities in the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is available at www.dhss.mo.gov. For information on a career at the community level, contact your local public health agency. Information for all agencies is available at www.dhss.mo.gov/PublicHealthAgencies.htm.

Alternate forms of this publication for persons with disabilities may be obtained by contacting the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at the number listed below. Hearing impaired citizens may telephone (800) 735-2966.

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For a personally rewarding career as a highly respected professional, public health nursing is an outstanding choice. Here's what professionals already in the field say about their work:

"I like the variety of work responsibilities and the people I interact with, plus the independence to make decisions that impact the community and the ability to expand and grow professionally."

*Pam Pittman, BS, RN, CPHA – Nurse Manager
Springfield-Greene County Health Dept.*

"I chose public health nursing to make a difference in the community by educating at-risk populations. I especially like the one-on-one relationships on the grassroots level."

*Betty Jefferson, RN, MSN – Public Health Nurse Supervisor
St. Louis City Dept. of Health*

"I enjoy the opportunity to work with multiple populations and the diversity of activities, including leading communities, advocating for clients and providing hands-on care. Public health nursing is a great opportunity to effect change in communities and individuals."

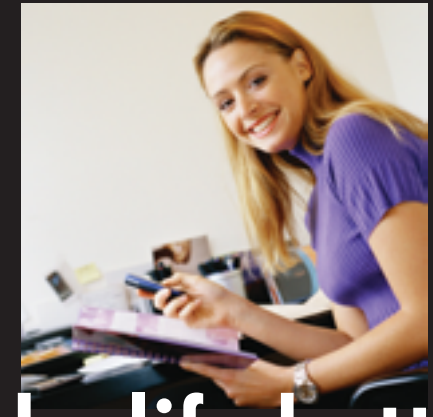
*Lynne Jones, RN, BSN – Regional Response Planner Supervisor
St. Louis County Dept. of Health*

"Public health nurses connect people and health resources to create healthy communities – one person, one group, one neighborhood at a time."

*Donna Bridgman Musser, RN, PhD – Assistant Clinical Professor
University of Missouri-St. Louis*

"Public health is silently and constantly working."

*Patti Yates, RN – Nursing Supervisor
Newton County Health Dept.*



Make life better.
Be a public health nurse.



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makes life better.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Want to make life better?



Become a public health nurse and discover an important and exciting career!

Looking for a nursing career where no two days are alike ... that allows you to maximize your training and education ... and that really makes life better? Then consider **public health nursing**.

There's never been a more exciting time to be a part of public health in Missouri. Today, communities are facing a variety of public health challenges. They're seeking solutions to help residents remain healthy. And, public health nurses are in greater demand than ever before.

As a public health nurse, you'll be involved in prevention and education, advocacy and activism, assessment and evaluation, and more. Whether you're highly visible or working behind the scenes, you'll serve a vital role in preventing disease and promoting community health and safety.

If you're a student in a nursing program or a practicing registered nurse seeking a change, public health nursing offers the challenges and fulfillment you're looking for ... plus a real opportunity to **make life better!**

Public Health Nursing –



imagine the possibilities.

*i*magine a career that can positively affect the health of an entire community. Public health nursing has that far-reaching impact.

Public health nurses work at the federal, state and local level, creating conditions to make people healthy. As a public health nurse, you can provide preventive health services in community-based settings to reduce the rate of diseases. Or, you can perform health screenings and provide follow-up to assure timely diagnosis and treatment. You'll have a chance to collaborate with community partners and work with government officials to develop public health policies. Public health nurses assess community health needs, identify gaps and barriers to programs and services, and recommend solutions. And, they advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Your role as a public health nurse may give you responsibility for people in a specific geographic area or you may promote the health of a particular group (for example, new mothers). Or, you may focus on a specific disease or condition, such as HIV/AIDS.

Whether you work in a clinic or a school, in businesses or homes, every day will bring new opportunities to demonstrate your commitment to excellence and concern for the community. That's what it means to be a public health nurse.

Serve and grow –



the opportunity is unlimited.

*W*hen you choose a career in public health nursing, your work will be varied and you'll never be bored. Here are just some of the opportunities for community involvement and service in public health nursing:

- Respond to emergencies including infectious disease outbreaks, natural or man-made disasters, bioterrorism.
- Educate populations about smoking/obesity risks and healthy lifestyle choices.
- Prevent communicable disease through monitoring occurrences, providing treatment, tracking outbreaks and providing immunizations.
- Organize health fairs and preventive health screenings.
- Work with schools regarding students' health, nutrition and developmental issues.
- Educate the community about environmental issues like food safety, lead and safe water.
- Work with business and industry to provide health education to employees.
- Organize advisory boards and coalitions, and collaborate with organizations and agencies to promote community/neighborhood health.
- Work with health care providers and institutions to assure quality services are provided.
- Contribute data for research and policy development.
- Link people to community programs and services.