

Broome County Health Department Service Guide



225 Front Street, Binghamton, New York 13905

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Mission Statement

The Broome County Health Department works with the community to preserve, promote and protect the public health and quality of life of all Broome County residents.

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

(778-2802)

The Broome County Health Department is committed to informing, educating, and empowering people about health issues. Health Department staff is available to provide educational materials and presentations to the public through schools, houses of worship, service organizations and worksites. These programs are provided to community groups at no charge. Please call to schedule at least two months in advance of the event.

COMMUNITY HEALTH TOPICS

- Cancer Risk, Investigation and Mapping
- Community Health Assessment and Planning
- Orientation to Public Health
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Chronic Disease Prevention
- Tobacco Use and Cessation Opportunities
- Communicable Diseases, including TB and Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Other general and specific health promotion topics on request



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TOPICS

- Water Quality (Public and Private)
- Private Sewage Systems
- Food Safety
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Public Health Nuisances
- Regulations for Bathing Beaches, Public Swimming Pools, Children's Camps, Hotels, and Campgrounds
- Indoor Air Quality
- Toxins
- Clean Indoor Air Act
- Youth Tobacco Use Prevention
- Rabies

Educational materials are available on West Nile Virus, Ticks and Lyme Disease, Tattoos and Body Piercing, Bed Bugs, and Mold - no programs in the aforementioned topics exist at this time.

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT TOPICS

- Overview of Maternal Child Health & Development Services
- Early Intervention Program and Preschool Program
- Family Planning
- Childhood Nutrition

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS / MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

The Broome County Health Department, under the direction of both state and federal governments, is responsible for emergency response plans and active response to any type of emergency affecting the public health including: natural events (i.e., floods, ice storms) and deliberate malicious acts (terrorism). Additionally, the Emergency Preparedness Program provides training and exercises to test and train public health response staff. The Program also oversees the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) which consists of medical professionals and non-medical volunteers who donate their time and expertise to prepare for and respond to emergencies of any kind. The MRC also engages in chronic disease initiatives and programs offered by the Health Department. Call 778-3944 to volunteer.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (778-2887)

The programs offered by the Environmental Health Division strive to preserve and protect the quality of the environment as it impacts the public health of Broome County residents and to prevent illness and injuries caused by environmental factors. The Division is charged with providing information on, and the necessary enforcement of, state and local health laws, codes and standards that apply to various facilities and systems. The services performed include the following:

WATER SUPPLIES

Inspect, survey and monitor the various public water supplies in accordance with Part 5 of the NYS Sanitary Code. Review plans for the construction, addition, or modification of any public water supply to assure compliance with state and federal regulations. Require correction of any violations and provide technical assistance to water supply operators to comply with Part 5 of the NYS Sanitary Code. Provide technical information to well owners.

TOXIC/SOLID WASTE DUMPSITES

Investigate and report on those dumpsites in Broome County which may present a potential public health problem. Collect samples at water supplies to determine if there are any impacts regarding drinking water quality. Review and comment on any reports completed concerning remedial action, hydro geological data collected, and proposed construction at the site.

FOOD SERVICE

Inspect and exercise surveillance over all public food service facilities in Broome County. This includes requiring correction of any violations of Part 14 of the NYS Sanitary Code and the enforcement of state and local provisions of the law.

SUBDIVISIONS

Review and provide approvals for plans and specifications for realty subdivisions in accordance with Part 74 of the NYS Sanitary Code and Article II of the Broome County Sanitary Code. This includes the development of water supplies and design of wastewater disposal systems.

ADOLESCENT TOBACCO USE PREVENTION & CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT

Staff complete youth tobacco compliance checks at all tobacco retail establishments in Broome County as well as enforce no smoking regulations per the Clean Indoor Air Act.

RABIES CONTROL

Investigate reports of potential rabies exposures, ship suspected rabid animals to a laboratory, and coordinate follow-up to determine that a health hazard is not present.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

Respond to reports of rodents, burning and similar complaints affecting public health.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Review, design, inspect, and provide approval of disposal systems for new construction or modifications/corrections to existing systems. Permits/approvals provided in accordance with Part 75 of the NYS Sanitary Code and Part 168.15-168.16 of the Broome County Sanitary Code. Review and provide approval of all proposed commercial wastewater disposal systems (10,000 gallons) for new construction or modification to existing systems.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Investigate complaints and reports of impacted indoor air quality. Provide recommendations concerning corrective action and suggest laboratories for required analyses or collect necessary samples. Recent air quality problems have involved formaldehyde, asbestos, chlordane, radon, and chlorinated solvents.

TEMPORARY RESIDENCES, CAMPGROUNDS & CHILDREN'S CAMPS

Inspect and require correction of any violations for hotels/motels, travel trailer campgrounds and children's camps per Part 7 of the NYS Sanitary Code. This includes reviewing and approving plans for construction, alteration and/or modification of proposed or existing buildings in order to assure compliance with the NYS Sanitary Code and fire safety aspects of the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code.

MOBILE HOME PARKS

Inspect and require correction of any violations for mobile home parks per Part 17 of the NYS Sanitary Code.

SWIMMING POOLS & BATHING BEACHES

Inspect and survey all public swimming pools and bathing beaches in Broome County per Part 6 of the NYS Sanitary Code.

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

Services are offered to all children with elevated blood lead levels through the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. The department's role is to review, assess and recommend appropriate follow-up for lead poisoned children. Staff members inform parents about strategies to prevent and reduce exposure to lead hazards. They can provide education on lead poisoning as well as environmental evaluations. Home visits are made for child developmental assessments and nutrition recommendations.

Through a primary prevention grant, staff identifies and corrects lead based paint hazards in high-risk housing in the City of Binghamton within the 13905 zip code before a child is identified with an elevated blood lead level. Environmental Health Services tests for lead paint hazards and works with property owners to correct conditions conducive to lead poisoning.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Respond to calls or reports relating to spills, pipe ruptures, or accidents resulting in the discharge of liquid, gaseous, or solid materials which may produce an environmental hazard.

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program addresses the environmental and health needs of residents living in geographically targeted neighborhoods within Broome County. Grant funds are used to implement a program designed to reduce residential injuries, childhood lead poisoning, hospitalizations due to asthma, and exposure to indoor air pollutants.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION

The Broome County Health Department actively collaborates with Upstate Medical University Central New York Department of Public Health and its Binghamton Clinical Campus in the education of third and fourth year medical students. Specifically, third year medical students spend three full days on population-based medicine/public health. Health department staff is involved in a teaching day for students to make the health department become “alive” to the medical students by directly exposing them to how the department works. Periodically, fourth year medical students take an elective in public health.

Lifestyle choices and personal health habits are the most important factors in the development of disease. The Broome County Health Department has a number of programs designed to assist and motivate individuals to voluntarily practice and sustain positive changes in their health-related behaviors.

SOUTHERN TIER CANCER SERVICES PROGRAM

The Cancer Services Program of Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Schuyler, and Tioga Counties provides free, comprehensive breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening services to uninsured individuals. The program aims to increase the number of people who get cancer screenings and to find cancers early when treatment is more effective. The Cancer Services Program also assists uninsured individuals in need of treatment for breast, cervical, colorectal or prostate cancer with applications for Medicaid coverage through the Medicaid Cancer Treatment Program.

TOBACCO FREE BROOME AND TIOGA

Tobacco Free Broome and Tioga works in the local community to implement best practices in tobacco control. Initiatives include: preventing youth initiation of tobacco use by working to reduce tobacco marketing and product displays at the point of sale; decreasing exposure to secondhand smoke by assisting landlords and management companies in adopting smoke-free housing policies; assisting municipalities/agencies/businesses with smoke-free outdoor policies; increasing cessation opportunities through referrals for cessation counseling and pharmacotherapy; and warning about the dangers of tobacco use through effective media.

TRAFFIC SAFETY/INJURY CONTROL

The Broome County Traffic Safety Education Program seeks to decrease the number of traffic related injuries and fatalities through community education programs and services. This program heightens public awareness on issues such as child passenger safety, bicycle and pedestrian safety, teen safe driving, occupant restraint use, older driver safety, veteran safety and motorcycle safety.

COMPREHENSIVE CANCER GRANT

The Broome County Health Department’s Comprehensive Cancer Prevention Program (CCPP) is a 5 year grant initiative funded by the New York State Department of Health to reduce the burden of cancer in Broome County through community-based interventions that support healthy lifestyles. In collaboration with public and private partners, CCPP utilizes innovative strategies to: decrease rates of obesity by working with jurisdictions and organizations that purchase, distribute, or serve food to adopt and ensure compliance with the food procurement standards established by the NYS Council on Food Policy; increase duration and exclusivity of breastfeeding in the post-discharge time period by engaging and assisting pediatricians to implement evidence-based practices to improve breastfeeding outcomes; and increase screening rates for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer by reducing barriers (i.e., out of pocket costs, time off from work) to cancer screening that exist in the workplace.

CHRONIC DISEASE INTERVENTIONS

The Broome County Health Department works in many sectors of the community including education, transportation and business that involve early childcare settings, schools and the community at large. The

interventions target tobacco-free living, healthy eating and active living, and healthy and safe environments for children ages 0-18.

Early Childhood Sector Goals: 1) increase the quantity and quality of developmentally appropriate physical activity in childcare centers and homes; 2) increase participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for legally exempt providers who care for subsidized children 30 or more hours per week through implementation of the program standard in the County Child and Family Services Plan; and 3) increase voluntary participation in CACFP by childcare centers and homes serving low-income children.

School Goals: 1) increase physical activity in the elementary classroom and increase access to safe routes to school for walking and biking; 2) develop regional food procurement initiatives that consolidate food purchasing, standardize menus, leverage and secure more competitive pricing, and improve the nutritional quality of the school lunch program; and 3) prohibit tobacco use at off-campus school sponsored events.

Community at Large Goals: 1) increase access to safe and accessible streets for walking and biking through the implementation and strengthening of Complete Streets policies; 2) modify beverage procurement and serving practices that decrease availability of sugary drinks and increase availability of healthy beverages; and 3) increase access to smoke-free, low-income, multi-unit properties through implementation of smoke-free policies.

FALL PREVENTION OF OLDER ADULTS GRANT

The Broome County Health Department is the lead agency for a five year Fall Prevention Grant funded by the New York State Department of Health. The purpose of the program is to reduce falls among older adults by employing evidence-based strategies within the community and healthcare delivery system. The grant program funds three evidence-based community programs and one pilot project called STEADI (S'Topping Elderly Accidents, Deaths and Injuries) that support the implementation of healthcare provider fall risk assessments into the local healthcare delivery system. The three evidence-based community programs are Tai Chi-Moving for Better Balance, Stepping On Program, and Otago Program.

CLINIC SERVICES

(778-2839)

These programs are designed to provide Broome County residents with access to personal preventive health care services in a convenient and confidential setting.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL (778-2804)

The communicable disease program nurses investigate diseases and outbreaks that are reported to the New York State Department of Health. When a person catches a disease like Pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis, or meningitis, doctors, hospitals and laboratories are required to report the disease to the local health department. The nurses who work in disease control speak with the person or guardian to find out where the disease came from, who else might have been exposed, and to recommend precautions to prevent further spread and treatment if needed.

If the communicable disease nurse calls, the information obtained is kept confidential and is used to protect people from getting a contagious disease. The communicable disease nurse is also available to answer questions about communicable diseases and sends printed fact sheets or pamphlets to people who request them.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) CONTROL CLINIC (778-2839)

The Tuberculosis (TB) Control Clinic provides for the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and control of TB in Broome County. An individual who is suspected of having TB is interviewed by a clinic nurse and referred for a chest x-ray and other tests, as indicated. The clinic physician discusses treatment recommendations with the individual. Medication is provided through the clinic and follow-up appointments are made for the client. As with other communicable diseases, it is sometimes necessary for other family members, or close contacts of the client, to be tested/examined at the clinic as well.



The Tuberculosis Control Clinic reaches out to identify individuals in targeted populations at high risk for exposure to TB who have been infected but are not yet contagious. Staff conduct outreach to find these individuals and provide treatment before they become ill and contagious to others. The Clinic serves as a resource for other health professionals, health care facilities, and congregate living establishments in the community. Referrals from these sources are welcome. The clinic nurse is available to answer questions and provide materials.

HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING SERVICES

Clinical testing is the only way to determine if a person is infected with HIV. Early diagnosis and treatment can improve the quality of life for a person with the virus. HIV testing is available through the STD Clinic (778-2839) but there are times set aside just for HIV testing with trained HIV test counselors. The Broome County Health Department does rapid testing and accurate results are available in 10-20 minutes. Call 1-800-562-9423 to make an appointment for anonymous HIV testing at the Health Department, Southern Tier AIDS Program, or throughout the region. Specially trained staff can provide information and programs about HIV/AIDS to individuals and groups.

IMMUNIZATION ACTION PROGRAM (778-2870)

The objective of this program is to increase the immunization rates of children and adults of Broome County. Efforts involve providing in-office provider education regarding practice specific immunization rates and quality improvement strategies; leading the Broome County Immunization Coalition which is an opportunity for local stakeholders to join efforts in improving immunization services throughout the county; community education through outreach events; acting as a resource for providers and residents regarding immunization recommendations, as well as providing immunizations for those at highest risk.

IMMUNIZATIONS

There is a clinic at the Broome County Health Department that offers all of the routine childhood immunizations: Polio, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A, Diphtheria-Tetanus-Acellular Pertussis (DTAP), HPV, Rotavirus, Haemophilus Influenzae B (Hib), Pneumococcal Conjugate, Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR), and Varicella. Tetanus-diphtheria (Td), Tdap for adults, and meningococcal vaccine are offered for college students. Flu vaccine is offered during flu season at the Broome County Health Department. Flu vaccine is given to persons at risk on a seasonal basis.

HEPATITIS C TESTING (778-2839)

In accordance with NYS law, Hepatitis C testing is offered to all persons born between 1945-1965. People in this age group account for the majority of those infected with Hepatitis C. Risk factors specific to Hepatitis C include sharing a needle to inject drugs (even once many years ago), receiving a blood transfusion before 1992, receiving clotting factors before 1987 or having been on long term kidney dialysis, having tattoos or piercings done in an unprofessional setting, or snorting drugs.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE (STD) CLINIC

The Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic is available to those people who are at risk or may have come in contact with one or more sexually transmitted diseases. A confidential interview by a professional staff member includes asking about the client's symptoms, their sexual activities and other information important to the diagnosis of their problem.

Following the interview is an examination, which will include getting samples of blood, discharges or other specimens for laboratory testing. Some of the tests will be done at the time of the visit so the results are known immediately. Other tests will take approximately 1 week to get back results. Once the diagnosis has been made, medication is either prescribed or given at the time of the visit, depending upon the diagnosis. Instructions will be given on how to take the medicine, how to prevent re-infection and how to obtain lab results. Recommendations for partner treatment are made, if needed.

Rapid HIV testing is offered to anyone attending the STD Clinic. Both confidential and anonymous rapid HIV testing is offered. Everything that is discussed in the STD Clinic, including test results, is confidential. Nothing can be discussed with someone else without the client's written consent.

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

(778-2851)

The assurance of optimal physical, psychosocial and developmental health and well-being for childbearing and child-rearing families is the goal through programs designed to help families receive the evaluation and treatment services they need. Some children may experience delays in their development and early detection and treatment may make a difference...for the child, the family, and the community.



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH NURSING

This team of highly trained nurses has extensive education and expertise in assessing infants, children and families within the community setting. Home visiting services include: a skilled nursing assessment; supporting the family to have a positive pregnancy and a healthy baby; providing prenatal guidance and birthing information; assistance with obtaining a medical home, health insurance, prenatal care, family planning, well child exams, immunizations, breastfeeding, quality child care, crisis planning, recognizing if a child has special needs, and providing linkages to other resources.

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

The Broome County Child Fatality Review Team (BC CFRT) is a multidisciplinary team of professionals established in 2008 pursuant to NYS Social Services Law to review the death of any child under the age of 18 whose death is unexpected or unexplained. The mission of the BC CFRT is to improve our understanding of how and why children die, develop and promote a countywide system of child death review and response, to identify systemic and policy issues, and to identify public health interventions to improve child health, safety and protection.

CHILD FIND

This statewide program ensures that children (birth to three years of age) who may be at risk for delays receive the help needed to enhance early growth and development. The goal is to ensure that children under age three are engaged in primary health care and receive appropriate developmental tracking and screening through their primary health care provider.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to provide information and referrals to families with children under 21 who have special health care needs to address their identified concerns. These include insurance, health services, and community resources.

WIC PROGRAM 778-2881 (Fax 778-3935)

The WIC Program has a strong commitment to women, infants, and children in Broome County. The program provides nutrition assessments, nutrition education and counseling, as well as health and community referrals to families who financially qualify. Participants of the program receive vouchers for healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grain bread and cereals, and low-fat dairy products. The program has over 30 years of proven success in improving pregnancy outcomes, enhancing the growth and development of infants and children, and decreasing the incidence of childhood obesity through the encouragement of healthy lifestyle activities with families. WIC is also committed to the promotion and support of breastfeeding women through its peer counseling program. There are several WIC Clinic sites located throughout Broome County. Call to find out if your family can take part in this program.

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EIP) (0-2)

The Early Intervention Program focuses on early identification and follow-up of children (0-2) with developmental delays and disabilities. Multidisciplinary evaluations are provided to infants and toddlers to determine if they are eligible for the program and to help families to better understand their child's strengths, needs and how the EIP can help, as well as various therapeutic and support services to eligible children and their families, all at no cost to families. A service coordinator works with each family to identify their concerns and priorities for their child, and to develop an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).

HEALTHY FAMILIES BROOME (HFB) 778-3909

Broome County's Healthy Families Broome Program offers home visiting services to families expecting a baby and to new parents residing outside the Binghamton City School District. The home visitor helps parents develop strong, positive relationships with their child/children by promoting an understanding of childhood growth and development. Additionally, the home visitor supports parents in achieving their goals by providing referrals to various resources.

PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION - COMMITTEE ON PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION (CPSE) (3-5)

The Preschool Special Education Program is for children (3-5) with a significant delay in one or more functional areas related to cognitive, language and communicative, adaptive, socio-emotional, or motor development which adversely affects the child's ability to learn. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) regulates this program as a means to prepare and transition identified children into the formal school system. Individual child evaluations to determine eligibility are conducted, and the CPSE, including the parent(s) of the child, develops an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for eligible children, outlining the special education programs and services to address the child's needs. Appropriate placement opportunities and services are at no cost to the family.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION TRAINING

Certified Medication Administration Training (MAT) is available for child care providers to educate and certify them on appropriate medication administration techniques utilizing the curriculum developed by SUNY Training Strategies Group.

The Ten Essential Public Health Services

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems; **2.** Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community; **3.** Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety; **4.** Inform, educate and empower people about health issues; **5.** Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems; **6.** Link people that need personal health service and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable; **7.** Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services; **8.** Ensure a competent public health and personal health care workforce; **9.** Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts; **10.** Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Health Department services are available to Broome County residents regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, handicap, sex, or political belief.

FEES

County taxes help support health department services. Although some services are free to Broome County residents, most services have a fee based on cost, with fees adjusted on ability to pay. Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance may be used to pay for care. Fees are also charged for most Environmental Health Division services. Call the service you are interested in for more information on fees. No one is denied clinical services due to inability to pay.

DIRECTIONS

- Route 17E to Front Street, right onto Front Street (Route 11) for almost 1 mile. Health Department is on the right, just before the railroad bridge.
- Routes 17W or 81 to Exit 5 (Route 81), Front Street. Left onto Front Street (Route 11) for approximately 2 miles, Health Department is on the right, just before the railroad bridge.
- The Broome County Health Department is located at the corner of Front and Clinton Streets.
- Free & handicapped accessible parking is available in front of the building.
- The #7 Clinton Street or #8 Front Street BC Transit Bus stops at the Health Department.



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