



Health Matters

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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LGBTQ Health Initiative

In Montgomery County, it is our goal to improve the health, safety, and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) individuals/identities. Montgomery County Health Department is committed to ensuring our residents that our clinics are friendly and welcoming and our staff is knowledgeable about LGBTQ health. To that end, we've initiated several actions internally to support the LGBTQ health initiative.

We have developed a webpage with various resources on LGBTQ health:

www.montcopa.org/lgbtq

Several resources include links to support agencies and healthcare leaders in LGBTQ health as well as links for healthcare professionals themselves.

Our Clinical Services programs are in the process of updating their forms and establishing LGBTQ health information and signage in our clinics.



Additionally, all staff attended an awareness program through TransHelp, Inc. that introduced staff to transgender issues. We will follow-up this awareness program with training and/or certification on LGBTQ health issues and health disparities.

Staff had an opportunity to speak with members of the LGBT Qmunity Center in Norristown about the programs and services the Health Department provides. Discussions included how we can collaborate on events and the best ways to communicate public health programs and services to the community.

Introducing Dr. Richard Lorraine, Medical Director

Richard Lorraine, MD, will serve as the Department's part-time Medical Director effective 12/13/16. Dr. Lorraine is an Internist with 30 years of clinical experience. He is also the Chief Medical Officer of the Pennsylvania National Guard CBRN Task Force. We look forward to working with Dr. Lorraine!

The Health Department and our staff extend our gratitude to Dr. Valerie Arkoosh, who has served as our Interim Medical Director, for her clinical guidance and expertise for the past 16 months. We are very fortunate to know she is just a call away and wish her well in her new role as Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Moving Towards a Digital Health Department

MCHD launched the Digital Health Department (DHD) in early fall for our Eating and Drinking Establishment program, our largest Environmental Field Services licensing and registration program. DHD provides us with the most up-to-date information allowing the inspectors to be more efficient while in the field conducting inspections.

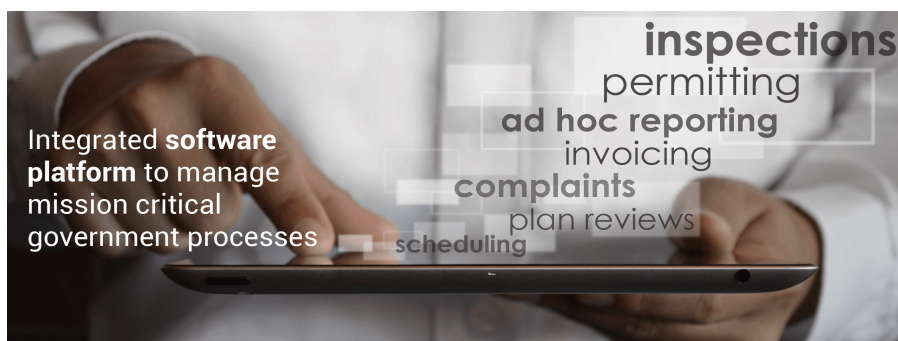
We will use DHD for other Environmental Field Services programs including Pools, Camps/ Campgrounds, Mobile Home Parks, Complaints, and Temporary Food Service events. Our tentative schedule for rollout of these programs is mid-December 2016.

As of now, the inspection data for the food facilities that was on our website will not be available until full implementation of the program is in use. If you are interested in obtaining an inspection report for your favorite spot in MontCo, please call the office closest to you:

Norristown: 610-278-5117

Pottstown: 610-970-5040

Willow Grove: 215-784-5415



Water Quality Management programs will be next in the development phase including On-Lot Sewage, Individual Well Water, Liquid Sewage Hauler, and Complaints.

Program & Partner Spotlight: Naloxone Education and Distribution

MCHD partnered with the Montgomery County Office of Drug and Alcohol and non-profit organization D.A.V.E. (Drug Addiction oVerdose Education) to provide three Naloxone education and distribution sessions throughout the County. Each session addressed a personal story of overdose, education about the issue, instruction on how to use Naloxone, and distribution of 120 Naloxone kits to attendees.

Through partnership with these organizations, MCHD's reach is greater and can reach a larger number of people with consistent messaging and information. D.A.V.E provides the personal story and education, Drug and Alcohol provides treatment information, and MCHD provides information on Naloxone and the doses of Naloxone.

There are currently 24 independent pharmacies in Montgomery County that distribute Naloxone using MCHD's standing order.

To date, 489 Naloxone kits have been distributed. In addition to the pharmacies, 25 Naloxone kits have been provided to residents with a hardship to purchase the kits, at MCHD's three clinic sites in Pottstown, Norristown, and Willow Grove.



For more information on this initiative, please visit our website:
www.montcopa.org/overdoseprevention

Did You Know?

The Montgomery County Health Department is partly funded through Act 315, the Local Health Administration Law, which requires local health departments to submit annual programs plans to the Pennsylvania Department of Health by March 31st each year.

We are currently in the process of writing our 2017 program plans and developing metrics that will

help us continue to improve our programs and services. Dr. Shaikh is working diligently with the management team and has included the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Performance and Planning Administrator in the planning phase as

well. A recent work session reviewed the importance of S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-based) objectives and the value of output and impact of programs and services.

Click link for current [Program Plans](#) and look for our 2017 plans in the 2nd quarter of next year.

Ask the Epidemiologist - An Interview with Leah Posivak-Khouly

What's your professional/ education background?

I have a Bachelor of Science in Biobehavioral Health and an MPH in Public Health.

Prior to Montgomery County Health Department, I worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator.

What is your primary role at the Health Department?

I monitor disease trends for diseases and health related events in Montgomery County. Those surveillance efforts are then used to complete epidemiological

reports that can be used for public health programs and services. I also conduct public health and outbreak investigations.

If you could describe Epidemiology very simply, what would you say?

The simplest definition is from the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO): Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events (including disease), and the application of this study to the control of diseases and other health problems.

How has public health Epidemiology changed over the last 25 years?

Public health is always changing and evolving. The technology in public health and medicine has rapidly developed and advanced. However, we still continue to see re-emerging infectious diseases that require additional study and research, for example Zika Virus.

How does the Health Department use the data and analytics you provide in program and service development?

The data and analytics that are provided allow for programs and services to establish their goals and priorities. The data can be used to assess programs and verify they are provided the appropriate services based on trends the data shows.



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