**What Does the Health Department Do?**

Local Health departments are on the front lines of preventing illness and preparing for emergencies. You may not always see the work we do but we are healthier because of it. The Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) works to safeguard our community by providing a variety of programs and services that promote health, prevent disease and ensure that the citizens of Monroe County are safe. For instance, protecting people against disease outbreaks from food and water; informing and supporting healthy choices that prevent disease and illness; and protecting the most vulnerable through vaccinations, are just a few of the many functions that take place behind the scenes and often times, may go unnoticed.

Here’s a snapshot of local health department services provided last year in Monroe County:

* 1,368 infants and children received disease preventing immunizations
* 1,168 family planning and breast and cervical cancer screening services were provided to women
* 4,497 WIC services provided
* 412 adult vaccinations
* 293 Employee Wellness Biometric Screenings were performed
* 82 facility inspections were completed to assure safe delivery of food
* 42 new septic installations were inspected
* 75 reportable disease contact investigations were conducted and 296 STD and TB clinical services were performed
* 110 fluoride varnish treatments provided to pre-school and head start children
* 565 HANDS Home-visiting services were conducted
* 247 middle school students received *Choosing the Best! An Evidence-Based, Abstinence Approach to Teen Pregnancy and HIV/STD Prevention.*
* 3 *Freedom from Smoking* Cessation classes were offered along with the promotion of Quit Now Kentucky.
* Fiscal agent for Monroe County’s Drug Free Communities grant, which provides funding for the Monroe County Citizens Advocating Responsible EnvironmentS (CARES) Coalition. This coalition has been very successful and has organized a number of activities for our community such as providing training on Narcan administration and free Narcan kits to first responders in the community; assisted with and provided signage to numerous businesses in becoming smoke-free, as well as Monroe County Schools’ 24/7 Tobacco Free School policy and smoke-free Tompkinsville City Park. CARES provides support to local law enforcement drug and alcohol checkpoints (road blocks). In 2017, local law enforcement checked a total of 2,086 vehicles, with 21 of these resulting in either a citation or an arrest. CARES was also responsible for the placement of permanent prescription drug disposal boxes which are housed at the Tompkinsville Police Department and the Monroe Co. Sheriff’s office. The above is a very small glimpse of the many accomplishments of CARES.
* MCHD obtained a grant that assisted two of our local law enforcement to attend ALICE Active Shooter training; this grant also secured the purchase of active shooter kits for all law enforcement officers. In 2018, these officers graciously provided this training to all personnel of the Monroe Co School system.
* The Preparedness Program continues to work diligently to build and strengthen relationships within our community, including those with emergency management, first responders, hospitals, long term care agencies, community organizations and other partners.
* MCHD offers many other educational and counseling services such as breastfeeding support, diabetes education, infant grief counseling and child fatality assessment, just to name a few.

Whether in everyday life or during an unexpected event, the health department plays a vital role in creating safe and healthy workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and individuals.