


Guide to Services



ADPH
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ADPH.ORG

Regular medical care can prevent many health problems and save unnecessary loss of life, productivity and money. The following services are provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

The good news in health today is you are in control. You can prevent most illnesses and injuries with good health and safety habits. The Department of Public Health works closely with your community to protect the public's health and provide caring, quality services for you and your family. We hope you'll use the services listed in this guide to help us put wellness to work for Alabama.

Best of health,

Donald Williamson, M.D.

State Health Officer

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

- Free breast and cervical cancer screening is provided to women age 40-64 who are uninsured or underinsured and whose income is at or below 200 percent of poverty level.
- Screening includes breast examination and mammogram, pelvic exam and Pap smear. If appropriate, free diagnostic testing is also provided.
- All counties are participating in the program. For more information call toll free 877-252-3324.
- For women diagnosed with cancer through the ABCCEDP, treatment services may be available through Medicaid.

Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program

- Free treatment for breast or cervical cancer is provided to women under age 64 who are uninsured and whose income is at or below 200 percent of the poverty level.
- Treatment is provided through Medicaid
- Diagnosis must be determined through a biopsy. For more information call 334-206-6227.

Child Health

- Alabama law requires all newborns to be tested for PKU (phenylketonuria), hypothyroidism, galactosemia, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, certain hemoglobinopathies (including sickle cell disease), biotinidase deficiency and hearing loss. With the use of technology called Tandem Mass Spectrometry (MS/MS), there are a total of 28 primary disorders and more than 50 disorders including secondary conditions that are part of the Alabama Screening Panel. The initiation of timely treatment and provision of adequate follow-up requires close coordination among the various components of the screening program: the hospital of birth, the state laboratory, the infant's family and physician, and specialists at an appropriate diagnostic and treatment center who oversee long-term treatment and monitoring.
- Healthy Child Care Alabama Program promotes safe, healthy child care environments for all children, including those with special needs, and provides health, nutrition and safety education for children, their families, and child care providers. Free services include the following:
 - On-site consultation and assessment of the health and safety risks in child care.
 - Linkage of children, families and child care providers with community health resources.
 - Assistance with the professional development of child care providers.
 - Provision of health and safety information and training – such as CPR and first aid.
 - Advocacy to promote quality child care in the community.

Adolescent School Health Program

- Provides resources and education regarding adolescent development (age 10-24) and risk behavior avoidance.
- Provides health-related continuing education and resources to school personnel, with an emphasis on school nurses and health educators.
- Coordinates with youth service agencies throughout the state to increase the capacity for positive youth development.

Dental Services/Health Education and Community Fluoridation Programs

- Information on the following programs may be obtained by contacting the Oral Health Branch in Montgomery at 334-206-5675. School dental health education programs, fluoride mouth rinse programs for grades 1 – 6, tobacco prevention programs, oral health screening and survey programs, dental sealant projects, and other dental programs are available for qualifying schools and facilities. Continuing education presentations are provided for nurses, nursing home staff, dental professionals and other groups. Information regarding the state community water fluoridation program is also available.
- Click on “Oral Health” at the ADPH website for a list of dental clinics located throughout the state or contact the Oral Health Branch at the number listed above for assistance in locating a dental clinic nearest you.

Diabetes

- Information and educational materials at county health departments.
- Community coalitions in Houston, Jefferson, Mobile and Tuscaloosa counties assess local needs and provide referrals.
- Information about diabetes and referrals are on the department’s website at www.adph.org/diabetes
- For in-service training and technical assistance, call 334-206-2063.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by Ambulance Providers

- All calls on the quality of EMS services will be referred to the Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma in Montgomery at 334-206-5383.

Family Planning

- Birth control method information
- INFO CONNECTION, 800-545-1098, a toll-free family planning and information/referral line.
- Medical exam, preventive health screenings (breast and cervical cancer, STDs), preconceptional counseling, pregnancy testing and counseling, HIV pre and post test counseling and referrals.
- PLAN first Hotline, 888-737-2083, a toll-free family planning information line

HIV/AIDS

- Alabama Drug Assistance Program: HIV Medication Assistance
- HIV/AIDS brochure distribution program
- HIV/AIDS statistical data
- HIV/AIDS Waiver: Helping HIV+ client to live at home instead of a nursing home.
- HIV prevention network groups
- Technical assistance for collaborative partnerships
- Grants and proposal opportunities

Home Care Services

- The department offers home care services through our Home Health and Life Care programs.
- Skilled nursing, physical therapy, medical social work and personal care services are available statewide through the department's 31 Medicare Certified Home Health Agencies.
- Occupational and speech therapy services are available from most of the home health offices.

- Medicare, Medicaid and other insurances are accepted for home health services.
- The Life Care program offers homemaker, personal care, companion and skilled and unskilled respite services. Medicaid-waiver benefits (including the Elderly and Disabled Waiver and the HIV/AIDS Waiver) and all third party payors other than Medicare are accepted for these services.
- Telehealth, in-home monitoring with special equipment through the phone lines, is available for Medicaid patients who meet certain criteria.
- For home care referral information, contact your doctor's office. Call your local county health department for more information about home care services.

Immunization

- **Childhood Vaccines:** All vaccines required for day care, Head Start and school attendance are administered at each county health department. An up-to-date Alabama Certificate of Immunization ("blue slip") is required for entry into these institutions and is available at each county health department.
- **Adult Vaccines:** Routine booster doses of some vaccines are available at each county health department. Pneumococcal and influenza vaccines are administered at most county health departments.
- **International Travel:** Vaccines needed for travel outside the United States are available at only a few county health departments. Please call your local county health department to locate a clinic near you, or visit the adph.org website for a list of international travel clinic sites.

Laboratory

- The Bureau of Clinical Laboratories consists of laboratories located in Montgomery and Mobile to provide quality laboratory results for Alabama citizens and to provide support for the following ADPH programs: maternity, family planning, child health, STD, tuberculosis control, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, newborn screening and environmental services.

Infection Control

- Information and consultation regarding infection control procedures, infectious diseases, Alabama's Infected Health Care Worker Management Act, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, and Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) health care related regulations and infectious diseases, may be obtained by contacting Infection Control in Montgomery at 334-206-5347.

Maternity

- Healthy Beginnings, 800-654-1385, a toll-free pregnancy information/referral line, which includes substance abuse treatment resources for pregnant women.

Nursing Services

- Patient care in county health departments in Alabama is provided by registered nurses and nurse practitioners with the support of licensed practical nurses and nursing assistants. Services provided include family planning, vaccines, sexually transmitted disease and tuberculosis screening and treatment, other screenings such as those for children needing early intervention, and referral to other medical services including mammograms. Nurses may also provide screenings and health education at community events.

Nutrition Services

- WIC—A supplemental nutrition program that provides assessment, education and nutritious foods free to limited income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children up to age 5 who are at a nutritional risk. For more information, please call toll free at 888-WIC-HOPE or 888-942-4673.
- Nutritionists are available in select counties to provide nutrition counseling.

Clinical Nursing Services

- Patient care in county health departments in Alabama is provided by registered nurses and nurse practitioners with the support of licensed practical nurses and nursing assistants. Services provided include family planning, vaccines, sexually transmitted disease and tuberculosis screening and treatment, other screenings such as those for children needing early intervention, and referral to other medical services including mammograms. Nurses may also provide screenings and health education at community events.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

- Confidential testing, treatment, counseling, partner referral and epidemiologic investigations for most sexually transmitted diseases.
- Syphilis elimination in high morbidity areas
- STD-related infertility prevention programs
- Public education and consulting by trained public health officials

Social Work Services

- Licensed public health social workers provide case management/care coordination for EPSDT, family planning, newborn screening disorders, elevated lead levels, HIV/AIDS, home health and E/D Waiver patients. Case management/care coordination services consist of psychosocial assessment, development of an individualized service plan, linking the patient with needed services and resources, patient advocacy and evaluation of service delivery. If a social worker is not available in your area, call 334-206-5226.

Tuberculosis

- Testing, medication, physician services, hospitalization, epidemiologic investigations and laboratory services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Alabama Department of Public Health ensures standards in environmental and service areas to protect the public from the spread of disease. These health protection activities include providing public information, professional training and certification, permitting, inspections, complaint investigations and health regulation enforcement in several areas, including the following:

Food and Lodging Protection

- Questions about food quality and safety are handled by county health department environmentalists. Food poisoning reports may also be made by calling 334-206-5375.
- Lodging protection includes hotels/motels, camps, jails/prisons and body art/tattoo facilities. Inspections and questions concerning sanitation in these facilities are handled by county health department environmentalists.

Milk and Food Processing Branch Programs

- Regulates all Interstate Milk Shipment requirements involving the State of Alabama. Regulates all frozen dessert processors as well as cheese, butter producers and single service container manufacturers. Permits and enforces work practice standards and regulations in accordance with state and federal laws through direct regulatory involvement in the production, shipping, manufacture and retail distribution of these products.

- Involved in the regulation of Alabama's food processing industry by conducting Food and Drug Administration contract audits on these facilities. Also, provides education and support for local environmentalists with regard to food processing.
- Provides citizens with information regarding the milk and food processing regulatory requirements and health-related concerns and questions. For more information please call 334-206-5375.

Indoor Air Quality/Lead/Asbestos/Mold

- The Indoor Lead Program
 - 1 Certifies contractors or firms who perform lead-based paint inspections, risk assessments, design projects, conducts abatement activities, issues lead abatement project permits and enforces work practice standards and regulations for these activities;
 - 2 Performs environmental lead hazard surveys in the homes of children diagnosed with elevated blood levels and ensures that further medical treatment or case management is undertaken;
 - 3 Provides citizens with information regarding indoor air quality and asbestos. For more information please call 800-819-7644 or 334-206-5373.

Insect and Animal Nuisances that Can Transmit Disease to Humans

- These are known as vectors and include bats, rodents, birds, fleas, mosquitoes and ticks. Environmentalists provide information on ways to reduce the risk of disease transmission from vectors, as well as general control recommendations. Animal bites must be reported to your county health department environmentalist. For questions concerning vectors, contact your county environmentalist or call 334-206-5969. For rabies questions call 800-677-0939.

Onsite Sewage Disposal System

- Regulatory responsibilities cover onsite sewage disposal systems such as those using septic tanks and other treatment methods for rural/subdivision housing and for public facilities. Contact your county health department environmentalist before you buy property that will require an onsite system,
 - 1 to see if the land is suitable for onsite system installation and to obtain the required installation application;
 - 2 obtain a list of licensed septic tank installers; and
 - 3 when your septic tank is in need of repair.

Solid Waste

- The Health Department has the responsibility for household solid waste containing garbage from the time it is generated until it reaches a disposal site. Reports on illegal dumps should be made to your county health department environmentalist. The department also has regulatory responsibilities regarding treatment and disposal of septage and other permitted waste. Environmentalists ensure that the basic methods of treating and disposing of septage are being followed and sanitary practices for the treatment, storage, and land application of other permitted wastes is done in accordance with state and federal regulations.

Water Supply in Individual Residential Wells

- Department environmentalists handle calls about bacterial contamination and sampling of individual residential wells. To obtain a water sample bottle for your individual residential water supply, contact your county health department environmentalist.

HEALTH STANDARDS PROTECTION

Health Provider Standards

- If you have questions regarding initial licensure and certification applications for health care facilities and suppliers such as nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living facilities, end stage renal disease treatment centers, hospices, independent clinical laboratories, residential treatment facilities or home health agencies call the Division of Provider Services at 334-206-5175. In addition you may contact this division with questions concerning the Provider Services Directory, facilities licensure rules, and bed change and change of ownership applications.
- Questions regarding surveys of long term care facilities should be directed to the Long Term Care Unit at 334-206-5111. Questions regarding surveys of health care providers other than long term care facilities and laboratories should be directed to the Medicare Other Unit at 334-206-5075. For information relating to building and life safety codes and the plan review process for health care facilities, call the Technical Services Unit of the Office of Facilities Management at 334-206-5177.

- For information regarding the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment, contact the CLIA Laboratory Unit at 334-206-5120.
- For inquiries regarding the Nurse Aide Registry and patient activities directors, call 334-206-5169.
- To make a complaint against a health care provider (other than assisted living facilities) you may call 800-356-9596. To make a complaint against an assisted living facility, call 866-873-0366.
- Requests for information or complaints regarding Health Maintenance Organizations should be addressed to the Division of Provider Services, 334-206-5175.

Radioactive Materials/X-ray/Particle Accelerators/Radon/NORM/Environmental Monitoring/Emergency Planning & Response/Radiological Training

- **The Office of Radiation Control**
 - 1 Regulates the possession/use/disposal of radioactive materials;
 - 2 Regulates the possession and use of X-ray equipment and particle accelerators;
 - 3 Maintains a statewide environmental, radiological monitoring program;
 - 4 Provides statewide emergency response to radiological events in the state;
 - 5 Administers a statewide radon and naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM) program;
 - 6 Provides training for “first-on-the-scene” responders and emergency response personnel statewide; and
 - 7 Acts as the Radiation Control Agency for the State of Alabama.

HEALTH INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND ACCESS

An important part of the Health Department's work to protect the public's health is informing people of ways to prevent disease and injury to enhance health quality. The Alabama Department of Public Health provides the following health-related information and education services to the public:

Birth and Death Certificates

- Certified copies of all Alabama birth, death, marriage and divorce certificates may be obtained in any county health department in Alabama on a while-you-wait basis, regardless of where in the state the event occurred.
- To order copies of these records by mail contact the Center for Health Statistics, P.O. Box 5625, Montgomery, AL 36103-5625, telephone 334-206-5418, or visit www.adph.org and click on Fast Find, then Vital Records. The price of certified copies is \$15.00 for the first copy and \$6.00 for each additional copy ordered at the same time.

Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Investigations

- The Epidemiology Division investigates disease outbreaks, maintains surveillance of notifiable diseases, and answers queries about disease control and other health-related events. These include questions about communicable diseases, environmental toxins, rabies and animal bites, and disease clusters. For information call 334-206-5971.

Emergency Preparedness

- Training for emergency preparedness provided to health departments, health care providers and emergency responders. For more information call 334-206-3394.

Health Statistics

- The Center for Health Statistics conducts statistical studies and prepares analyses of data on birth, infant death, pregnancy and other health data for the state and its geographic subdivisions. Many special studies are done on causes of death, teenage births, and maternal behaviors during and after pregnancy and other health-related topics. Information is released in narrative, graphic and tabular form through annual publications, newsletters, special reports, presentations and ad hoc tabulations. Data are also available on the website at www.adph.org. Click on Fast Find, then Health Statistics. More information may be obtained by contacting the Center for Health Statistics, P.O. Box 5625, Montgomery, AL 36103-5625 or telephone 334-206-5429.

Children's Health Insurance Program (ALL Kids)

- A low cost or free, health care coverage program for eligible, uninsured children ages birth through 18. Benefits include regular check-ups and immunizations, sick child doctor visits, prescriptions, dental services, vision services, hospital and physician services and limited mental health/substance abuse services. Call toll free 888-373-KIDS (5437).
- ALL Kids has staff available to assist with community outreach and event planning and application assistance events. Applications, resource materials and outreach assistance are also available in Spanish. Administrative office may be reached toll free by calling 877-774-9521.

Minority Health

- Promote minority presence and participation in health planning and policy formation.
- Enhance and promote public awareness of health care needs of minority populations.
- Engage communities in increasing awareness and developing strategies to eliminate health disparities.

Primary and Rural Care

- Assess communities for the availability of health care providers and recommend areas with critical shortages for federal shortage designation status.
- Recruit health care professionals into medically underserved communities with special emphasis on health care services for the medically indigent.
- Provide grant writing, workforce development, and technical assistance to health care providers and organizations in rural and medically underserved areas.

Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry

- Collects data on persons diagnosed with and treated for cancer in the state from hospitals and health care providers to identify high risk groups which can specifically be targeted for education, prevention and screening efforts.
- Provides marketing and planning information for hospitals and health care providers in assessing the need for new equipment, personnel, target markets and location of new facilities.
- Evaluates the effectiveness of education and intervention programs.
- Investigates potential community cancer excesses.

Injury Prevention

- Provides information as well as educational presentations regarding fire safety, poisoning prevention, drowning prevention, motor vehicle safety including child safety restraints and seat belt use, bicycle safety, sexual assault, suicide and other forms of violence.
- The Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative provides fire safety information and works with local communities to provide and install free smoke alarms
- The Occupant Restraint Program provides educational programs across the state to increase seat belt and child restraint usage and conducts observational surveys to determine the state's seat belt and child restraint usage rate.
- The Rape Prevention and Education Program supports the Alabama Coalition Against Rape and its 15 member rape crisis centers in their efforts to provide educational programs addressing violence against women. The programs include 24-hour hotlines and educational activities in schools, organizations and communities.
- Safe Routes to School Program enables and encourages children K-8, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school. In order to accomplish this, the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Department of Education, and the Department of Transportation are working together to improve current infrastructure and non infrastructure activities thereby making it safer for these children to walk or bike to school.

Tobacco Prevention and Control

- Educates decision makers and the general public on tobacco-related policy issues that protect Alabamians from exposure to secondhand smoke, discourages use of tobacco products, and assists those who wish to quit using tobacco.
- Disseminates data on city ordinances, worksite policies, hospital policies, universities and school board policies, state and local tobacco excise taxes, compliance checks and youth and adult beliefs and behaviors about tobacco use.
- Facilitates local and state coalitions to implement the State Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Plan.
- Funds communities to prevent tobacco use, empower youth to strengthen tobacco control policies in their communities, and help youth quit tobacco.
- Provides free counseling and four weeks of nicotine replacement therapy to medically eligible Alabamians who want to quit tobacco. Call the Alabama Tobacco Quitline at 800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669) or visit www.alabamaquitnow.com
- Enforces FDA tobacco-related regulations in Alabama.

Making Appointments

Can Help Us Save You Some Waiting Time.

When visiting your county health department, you'll help us save you some waiting time if you make an appointment. While making the appointment, ask if you need to bring any information with you.

All services from the Alabama Department of Public Health are provided to eligible persons without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, political beliefs, handicaps or sex. Payment for services varies. No one will be denied services if unable to pay.

**FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES
OF THE GUIDE, CONTACT:**

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