Lead Poisoning Prevention

Childhood lead poisoning is considered the most preventable environmental disease among young children, yet 500,000 children in the United States have blood lead levels above 5 mcg/dL, which is the reference level at which CDC recommends public health actions start. A simple blood test can prevent permanent damage.

The current New York State Public Health Law requires health care providers to test all children for lead at age 1 and again at age 2. It also requires health care providers to assess all children ages 6 months to 6 years at least annually for risk of lead exposure and test all those found to be at risk. The law additionally requires providers to make certain children with high lead levels have follow up testing.

Even with the laws in place, lead testing rates in Steuben County remain low. 2018 rates show that only 38.5% of 1 year olds and 38.4% of 2 year olds in Steuben County were tested for lead. Lead testing can be as simple as a finger stick at a doctor’s office. Testing rates vary by provider offices across the county:

If you have a child, make sure he/she has been lead tested as recommended. Prevention methods for lead poisoning includes washing hands after playing outside and before every meal or snack. If your home was built before 1978, there may be lead paint present which can peel or create lead dust. Lead tastes sweet, so exploring children find paint chips and dust tasty. It only takes a tiny amount of lead to poison a child. For more information on lead poisoning prevention, visit [https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/default.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/default.htm)
Ever wonder what we do at Public Health?
Visit our Instagram page for a sneak peek behind the scenes of what each staff member does every week on #MeetTheStaffMonday. We post something fun each weekday as well. We’d love to see you there!
www.instagram.com/steubenpublichealth

Are you a Health Care Professional? Not Yet Signed Up as a ServSTEUBEN Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteer? Join Today!

Steuben County Public Health hosts an emergency volunteer group called ServSTEUBEN MRC. This group allows us to have a pool of volunteers from a variety of professional and personal backgrounds. The volunteer bank allows us to call on individuals from the group in case of a public health or large scale medical emergency or natural disaster when many hands are needed to benefit the health of the community. Although we can always use non-medical personnel for a variety of tasks, we are very low on health care professionals who we can call upon. Signing up for the MRC does not obligate a volunteer to dedicate any number of hours to Public Health; it only allows us to have contacts to reach out to in case they are able to help during an emergency situation.

In the wake of disasters and public health and medical emergencies, many of our nation’s health professionals are eager and willing to volunteer their services. In these times of crisis, hospitals, clinics, and temporary shelters are dependent upon the services of health professional volunteers. However, on such short notice, taking advantage of volunteers’ time and capabilities presents a major challenge to public health, hospital, and emergency response officials.

For example, immediately after the attacks on September 11, 2001, tens of thousands of people traveled to ground zero in New York City to volunteer and provide medical assistance. In most cases, authorities were unable to distinguish those who were qualified from those who were not—no matter how well intentioned.

There are significant problems associated with registering and verifying the credentials of health professional volunteers during emergency or crisis situations. Hospitals and other facilities may be unable to verify basic licensing or credentialing information, including training, skills, competencies, and employment. Further, the loss of telecommunications may prevent contact with sources that provide credentials or privileged information.

Help us solve these problems by being registered ahead of time. Call us at 607-664-2438 or email publichealth@steubencountyny.gov to get signed up as a ServSTEUBEN MRC volunteer today!
Steuben County Public Health hosts the National and Medicare Diabetes Prevention Programs (NDPP and MDPP). Participants lose weight through healthier eating and regular exercise—a real lifestyle change!

Cost: $150 for NDPP and covered by Medicare for recipients for MDPP
Program Time: 1 hour weekly for 4 months, 1 hour every other week for 6 months, 1 hour every 3 weeks for 2 months, 1 hour monthly for second year—the time truly flies by and participants always ask to stay weekly longer!
Must qualify for the program by blood test (prediabetes range) or risk assessment: [https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/risktest/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/risktest/index.html).
Call 607-664-2438, email lwagner@steubencountyny.gov, or visit our website above for info or to register.
WELLNESS MATTERS

Steuben County Public Health
3 E. Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

Phone: 607-664-2438
Fax: 607-664-2166
Email: PublicHealth@steubencountyny.gov

We're on the web!
http://www.steubencony.org/publichealth

Find us on Facebook!
https://www.facebook.com/SCNYPublicHealth

Return Service Requested

OFFICE INFORMATION:
Location:
First Floor (Basement)
Steuben County Office Building
3 E. Pulteney Square, Bath, NY

Hours:
Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Phone Numbers:
Office: 607-664-2438
Toll Free: 1-800-724-0471
After hours: 1-800-836-4444


CLINIC / OFFICE DIRECTORY

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) TESTS
Screening tests for TB are available by appointment only, for a fee of $25.

All clinics are by appointment only.

HIV TESTING CLINICS
Please call ahead for an appointment.

IMMUNIZATION CLINICS:
Please call ahead for an appointment.

Day clinic:
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm on 2nd Wednesday every month

Evening clinic:
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm on 4th Tuesday every month