

Public Health Protecting Oregon: Public Health Successes in Action



Every day and during times of emergencies, public health makes **Oregon a healthier and safer place** to live and work.

Public health aims to handle health problems before they get much worse. Although responsible for much more, public health **prevents the spread of disease** and chronic conditions that drive the state's health care spending. Across the state, public health departments **bring people together in emergencies** and **provide regular assistance** to the most vulnerable to meet the evolving needs of our state.

Protecting Oregonians from Outbreaks

Public health departments work with others to stop outbreaks.

In 2017, when OSU had a deadly meningitis outbreak, the Benton County Health Department swiftly **began vaccinating 2,900 of the most at-risk students** and led community outreach efforts to stop the spread of the disease.

Safeguarding Our Food

Public health departments inspect 20,000 restaurants annually.

In 2016, Oregon state and local public health officials quickly **identified an E. coli outbreak** linked to a national chain restaurant and worked with partners and the corporate office to keep more people from getting sick.

Saving Health Care Dollars

Public health departments reduce costly, unnecessary care.

In 2016, public health departments made sure **70 patients got the right tuberculosis treatment**, making it much less likely that drug resistant TB will take hold in Oregon at a cost of up to \$494,000 per person.

Ensuring Clean Air and Water

Public health departments track air quality.

Pollution from wood burning can cause respiratory problems like asthma attacks. In Klamath and Washington Counties, the public health agencies **helped families find wood alternatives** for heating their homes in the winter to improve lung health and save money in the process.

Public Health Needs Your Support

As this handful of successes shows, public health protects Oregon every day. In ways large and small, public health prevents the spread of disease and brings people together in times of emergency to help people stay healthy. To continue these activities and be able to respond to new health threats across the state, **the public health system needs an ongoing commitment from state, local, and federal partners.**