



Buffalo County Health Department

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

We thank you for your continued support, resources, and partnerships. Here is what happened in 2022.

- Buffalo County Public Health saw significant turnover in 2022. Two of the three limited-term Public Health Educator positions were eliminated in May, reducing Public Health capacity for pandemic response and recovery needs.
- The Public Health Officer/Supervisor left in June. Efforts to fill the Public Health Nurse position through the development of a Public Health Worker position were unsuccessful and resulted in another vacancy in August, necessitating contracting with Pepin County Public Health for nursing services.
- A Public Health Nurse was hired in December 2022. Environmental Health Specialist, Jamie Weaver, was promoted to fill the Health Officer/Supervisor position in August. This created another vacancy, which fortunately was filled in November with the hiring of an Environmental Health Specialist. Both the Environmental Health Specialist and the Public Health Nurse were new to the Public Health sector.
- Arrangements were made to provide proper disposal of sharps via containers placed within the Courthouse for the community to utilize at no cost.
- The department continues to offer free immunizations for those qualified through the VFC and VFA programs and seasonal flu vaccines, communicable disease surveillance & control, lead poisoning & prevention, preparedness and response planning, environmental health licensing & inspection, human health hazards, animal bite follow-up and rabies prevention, water testing lab, WIC, BOTVIN Life Skills for students, Signs of Suicide (SOS), Tobacco Prevention, Birth to 3, and COVID-19 Response.
- In partnership with UW-Eau Claire, 17 farms within the County were given health screens and provided tetanus, Influenza, and COVID-19 vaccinations in 2022. They were also screened for Tuberculosis, resulting in 3 positive latent cases for follow-up and medication dispensing.
- 110 children (up 20 from last year) were tested for lead, with 3 being investigated due to a high lead level ($>5\text{mcg/dL}$ blood lead level).
- 12 human health hazards and 29 animal bites were investigated in 2022.
- All 6th-grade youth participated in “Escape the Vape” escape rooms which provided interactive information on harms and dispelled myths about vaping. Buffalo County Partnership Council conducted a Delta-8 survey and hosted focus groups. Results showed that over 40% of high school students are aware of delta-8 (have seen it, know where to buy it, or have used it), 5% of students admit to using Delta-8, and 18% would use it, or at least consider using Delta-8 if it were offered to them.

Current Public Health staff at the end of 2022:

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