

# LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS IN NEW YORK STATE

## WHAT WE ARE—WHAT WE DO



Local health departments operate under the statutory authority of Article 3 and Article 6 of the Public Health Law (PHL). Local health departments (LHDs) provide core public health services and put the NYS Prevention Agenda into action at the local level. Public Health cares for the health of populations rather than through the more clinically focused health care for individuals. It helps to understand public health by looking at our work through the more familiar health care lens.

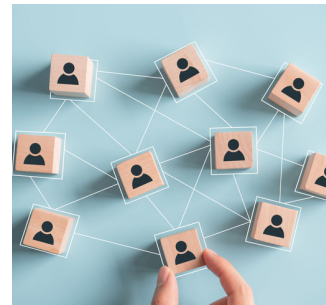
### Local Health Departments Diagnose

Public health experts diagnose the health of each community by listening to people who live there—and then use data, evidence, and research to offer solutions. We do this through community health assessments, to identify the health needs and disparities in our communities, through regular disease surveillance and through inspections and permitting of regulated facilities to assure that they are operating safely.



### Local Health Departments Collaborate

To improve the health of the community, different organizations have to work together. Public health brings together community partners to make decisions and take action. Our ongoing COVID-19 response shows the importance of cooperation and relationship building in our communities. LHDs work with schools, businesses, government agencies, hospitals, pharmacies, not-for-profit organizations and faith communities to assure that each understands how they contribute to protecting their constituents.



### Local Health Departments Prevent

We often end up in the doctor's office after we're sick or injured. Public health experts investigate everything that affects our health—food, water, air and more—to prevent health problems before they start. Inspecting restaurants to assure that they understand and follow safe food handling practices, reviewing facilities, training and safety protocols at children's camps, running naloxone trainings for first responders and working with health care providers and schools to assure that children receive life-saving childhood immunizations are just some of the many ways LHDs work to prevent illness and injury.



### Local Health Departments Challenge Inequity

Where we live, work, learn and play affects our health. LHDs work to reduce health disparities by addressing the underlying social determinants of health. We reach out to our communities to understand of the complex causes of health disparities to direct our programs and services where they are most needed.