



NEWSLETTER

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Stronger communities, healthier lives

Thank you to all public health workers!

Celebrating the role of public health in our communities

April 7-13 is National Public Health Week! It's a time to recognize the contributions of public health workers and agencies in helping all members of our communities grow happier and healthier.

The [Chicago Department of Public Health](#) supports Chicagoans, from infants to seniors, through a wide variety of programs and initiatives. And it takes all kinds of people, in all kinds of jobs, to make our work possible.

This National Public Health Week, meet six CDPH employees who help make Chicago a safer, healthier city.

Brendan McPartland Sanitarian II

Brendan conducts [health inspections at food establishments](#) across Chicago, including restaurants, food trucks, festivals and schools or summer programs. Sanitarians focus on quality of inspection, not quantity; the detail-oriented nature of his work means Brendan completes just two or three inspections per day.



What Abraham loves most about his job:

"Getting the opportunity to meet new people from a variety of backgrounds and learn about the cuisines that make our city one of the food capitals of America is something I never thought I'd get the chance to do. When the job gets difficult, I'm always reminded by the kind and dedicated people of Chicago that an opportunity like this is something many can only dream of."



Darlene Nolasco Magana Epidemiologist IV

Darlene directs, supervises, manages, and supports the work activities of a team of epidemiologists across multiple public health areas. In her role, she plans and manages the Office of Epidemiology, which focuses on understanding the causes of [diseases](#) while identifying ways to prevent and control them.

What Darlene loves most about her job:

"I love using data to tell a story in a clear and concise narrative that is accessible to an array of audiences. Another thing I love is the collaboration aspect of my job, where meaningful work relationships are built."

Abraham Bradshaw Environmental Engineer III

Abraham is responsible for overseeing the permitting process for [waste and recycling facilities](#), to ensure compliance with local ordinances and regulatory standards. That includes conducting background checks and following up on fines owed to the city.



What Abraham loves most about his job:

"I value the opportunity to help businesses achieve compliance by clearly explaining the permitting process. Engaging with the community and contributing to a safer, well-regulated environment is especially rewarding."



Meghan Marth Coordinating Planner

Meghan works to establish partnerships between CDPH and other city departments and sister agencies to improve community health. In her role, she helps create and implement plans for [Healthy Chicago 2025](#).

What Meghan loves most about her job:

"Working in public service has made me feel more connected to the city I live in and care about. Local public health – its mission, its programs, and most importantly, its people – have an energy and opportunity to influence systemic change, which motivates me to show up and produce good work each day."

Dr. Francisco Rodríguez Director of Mental Health Centers

Dr. Francisco Rodríguez spent more than 20 years seeing patients in CDPH mental health clinics before transitioning into an administrative role. Now, he supervises the daily workings of the city's [mental health centers](#).



What Dr. Rodríguez loves most about his job:

"The fact that we are making mental health services available to all city of Chicago residents, and as a Latino I feel proud about the process."

Barbara Brackins Public Health Nutritionist III

Barbara supervises the daily [WIC](#) operations for families in Chicago communities and surrounding suburbs. (WIC is a federal program that provides extra nutrition and support to women, infants, and children.) She has been with CDPH for more than 40 years.

What Barbara loves most about her job:

"Being able to expound and expand teachable moments to my clients. I find comfort in serving others as an encourager, a problem-solver, and a motivator. My job is to educate positive changes in health and good nutrition. But for me it is helping families meet their total needs."

MENTAL HEALTH



Tap Into Your Mental Wellness and Creativity with a Healing Arts Session

CDPH's Healing Arts sessions, creative wellness programming led by local artists, are now available through December.

All Chicago residents are welcome to register for the diverse range of individual sessions and arts-focused healing sessions, including **movement, yoga, sound and body meditation, music, painting, poetry, writing, and storytelling.**

Healing Arts programming focuses on evidence-based strategies for individuals at risk of opioid-related harms and those with co-occurring substance use disorders and mental health conditions.

[REGISTER FOR A SESSION](#)

COMMUNITY HEALTH



Extended Medicaid coverage helps Illinois parents and babies get a healthy start

CDPH and [Innovations to ImPROVe Maternal OutComEs in Illinois \(I PROMOTE- IL\)](#) are raising awareness about the expansion of Illinois Medicaid coverage through 12 months postpartum.

Many people are not aware that the six-week check-up is no longer best practice. Care should start within the first three weeks postpartum, and new parents should be seen again within 12 weeks postpartum. Illinois Medicaid covers additional care through 12 months postpartum.

Visit [CDPH's Nurture You](#) resource center to get connected to Medicaid enrollment and resources and information including urgent maternal health warning signs to look out for during pregnancy and postpartum.



Health clinics renamed to reflect locations

CDPH is renaming all department-run clinics in 2025. Each clinic will now be named after its neighborhood and street location, making it easier for residents, community partners, and new clients to identify and navigate our facilities.

Visit [CDPH's Health Services resource center](#) for a full list of new clinic names and to find new services near you.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Environmental News You Can Use in Your Neighborhood

CDPH recognizes that health is not just the absence of disease – it is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. And that requires a healthy environment. CDPH Environmental Updates includes relevant news and opportunities for engagement within YOUR community, so we can make change together.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CDPH'S ENVIRONMENTAL WORK](#)

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The Chicago Health Atlas is a place to review and compare health-related data over time and across communities. It's an evolving tool that allows residents to see progress against Healthy Chicago priorities.

[CHECK OUT OUR PROGRESS](#)



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