

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The department director is responsible for the management of the department and the administration of its programs and services. The department deputy director assists the director and acts in his or her absence. The division of administration and the offices of general counsel, governmental policy and legislation, human resources, minority health, primary care and rural health, dental health, public information and women's health, report to the director.

Telephone: (573) 751-6002

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

This office:

- Provides legal counsel to all departmental divisions.
- Assists the department in complying with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- Litigates various regulatory and licensure actions before hearing officers, at the Administrative Hearing Commission and in circuit court.
- Pursues guardianships for eligible adults.
- Coordinates with the attorney general's office regarding litigation involving the department.
- Provides training on legal issues for department employees.

Telephone: (573) 751-6005

The Employee Disqualification List Unit is within the Office of General Counsel and:

- Maintains the Employee Disqualification List.
- Processes requests from health care providers for access to the Employee Disqualification List automated checking systems.
- Provides technical support to users of the automated checking systems.

Telephone: (573) 522-1119

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND LEGISLATION

This office:

- Coordinates the development, review and tracking of public health-, health- and senior services-related state legislation.
- Reviews federal legislation for its impact on department policy and programs.
- Serves as the departmental liaison between elected officials, other state agencies and constituent groups.
- Provides research about policy alternatives under consideration by other states or federal agencies.

Telephone: (573) 751-6003

OFFICE OF DENTAL HEALTH

The Office of Dental Health provides a broad range of core public health activities aimed at improving oral health in Missouri. It also serves as a resource on oral health issues for other states and federal agencies, the dental profession and the public.

This office:

- Provides preventative services.
 - The Preventive Services Program (PSP) is an evidence-based fluoride varnish and oral health education program that serves more than 80,000 children per year.
 - The Office of Dental Health provides supplies and technical assistance to schools, day care centers and Head Starts that participate.
 - Oral health screenings are conducted by volunteers from the dental profession and children identified as having a need for follow-up care are referred to local providers.
- Oversees the Dental Sealant Program.
 - Initiated in February 2017, the program is designed to provide dental sealants to grade school children in high-need schools.
 - This program is operated by four contractors as an extension of the PSP.
- Provides dental care to adults and children with developmental disabilities through the Elk's Mobile Dental Program.
 - The Office of Dental Health works with Truman Medical Centers and the Elk's Benevolent Trust to bring a mobile dental unit to underserved areas, particularly in rural communities and provide specialized dental care on-site.
- Provides dental care to people with disabilities, who are elderly or medically fragile and cannot afford dental care through the Donated Dental Services Program.
 - The Office of Dental Health works with the Dental Lifeline Network to bring volunteer dentists and dental laboratory services to people who may not be able to afford and have access to those services.
- Oversees the Teledentistry Program.
 - Initiated in 2019, the program provides education to dentists and hygienists throughout the state on this innovative approach to bringing dental services to people who may not have access.
 - The program also provides start-up funds to a few selected dentists to begin teledentistry services to serve people in underserved areas and to educate on the importance of dental sealants.
- Oversees the WIC Varnish Program.
 - Initiated in 2019, the program provides funds to selected Local Public Health Agencies to apply fluoride varnish to the teeth of WIC and non- WIC children.
 - The Local Public Health Agencies also provide education to those children and their caregivers on the importance of proper dental hygiene.
- Supplies educational materials for outreach at health fairs, dental clinics, health centers and local health departments on a wide variety of oral health topics.
- Provides support of community water fluoridation through training, technical assistance and education.

Telephone: (573) 751-5874

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Office of Public Information coordinates the public relations and media messages released by the Department of Health and Senior Services, including media contacts and information in response to inquiries from other agencies and the public.

This office:

- Prepares and distributes news releases and reports of department activities.
- Maintains relationships with the state's media and responds to inquiries from the media, legislators and the public.
- Designs and edits the department's many publications, including newsletters, brochures and pamphlets for every program and division.
- Oversees the department's website, health.mo.gov.
- Maintains the department's social media messages to stakeholders and the public.
- Counsels other units of the department about the communication aspects of public health and senior services programs and assists them in designing their publications and audiovisual material.
- Provides video services that are used statewide to promote the department.
- Promotes the department's health education programs to help reduce the impact of chronic disease on Missourians.

Telephone: (573) 751-6062

STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL), located in Jefferson City, is dedicated to promoting, protecting and partnering for health by delivering quality public health laboratory services. These services include laboratory testing for infectious diseases, genetic disorders and environmental concerns, both in support of public health programs and as a reference laboratory performing confirmatory or specialized procedures. The MSPHL provides scientific expertise and managerial leadership to meet the challenges in clinical and environmental laboratory disciplines and in the development of public health policy. Annually, more than 7 million tests (many required by law) are performed by the MSPHL.

The following units within the division carry out these responsibilities.

ADMINISTRATION

- Provides laboratory leadership and personnel management.
- Develops and maintains Laboratory Quality Systems.
- Ensures CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act) and other regulatory compliance.
- Manages procurement, commodity, maintenance contracts and purchasing cards.
- Manages accounts payable, expense reports and other payments.
- Manages accounts receivable, revenue generation.
- Reviews federal grants and memorandums of understanding.

- Tracks expenditures and prepares operating budget requests.
- Performs cost analyses, grants management, legislative reviews and fiscal-note preparation.
- Compiles statistical workloads and prepares special reports.

Telephone: (573) 751-3334

Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) Unit

- Manages/maintains Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) which provides management of samples from receipt, quality control, analysis and reporting of results.
- Manages/maintains the OpenELIS Web Portal which provides submitters immediate access to their laboratory results.
- Process/maintain MOA's for access to the OpenELIS Web Portal.
- Manages electronic reporting of results to submitters via HL7 messaging.
- Manages instrument interfaces that connects laboratory instruments to the LIMS for direct result ingestion.
- Plans for future informatics needs at the laboratory.

Telephone: (573) 751-3334

CENTRAL SERVICES UNIT

- Prepares glassware for use in various testing units.
- Sterilizes and disposes of biological waste.
- Receives and stores general testing supplies.
- Assembles and ships specimen kits to hospitals, laboratories and public health offices for the submission of laboratory specimens.
- Monitors and tracks the statewide courier-system activities.

Telephone: (573) 751-4830

POST ANALYTICAL REPORTING TEAM

- Enters provider, patient and demographic information for all specimens and samples into various Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS).
- Captures, records and archives the clinical demographics and results of each sample and specimen submitted for testing.
- Completes additional quality assurance checks on each test result prior to dissemination.
- Works closely with testing units and liaises with providers to assure accurate and timely recording and dissemination of results.
- Completes additional quality assurance checks on each test result prior to dissemination
- Provides laboratory support to technical areas of the laboratory by assisting in specimen accessioning, preparation and disposal.

Telephone: (573) 751-3334

CHEMISTRY UNIT

- Conducts lead analysis for Missouri's Childhood Blood Lead Program.
- Performs various inorganic and organic chemical analyses on private water supplies.
- Conducts heavy metal analyses on samples obtained from household plumbing supplied by public water.
- Conducts lead analysis on soil, water, paint and dust wipes collected from homes of children with elevated blood-lead levels.
- Conducts analyses of human clinical samples for various chemicals collected in response to a chemical terrorism event or a chemical exposure.
- Conducts analyses of food samples for chemical and radiological contamination.

Telephone: (573) 751-3334

LABORATORY PREPAREDNESS, EDUCATION AND SAFETY UNIT

- Develops preparedness and response plans for MSPHL.
- Maintains a comprehensive safety program for MSPHL and other laboratories.
- Coordinates with federal agencies to participate in the National Laboratory Response Network (LRN).
- Established and maintains the Missouri Laboratory Response Network (MOLRN).
- Provides direction, coordination and oversight of the laboratory's portion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP).
- Coordinates with external partners to provide integrated laboratory services and response to emergencies, natural or intentional.
- Develops outreach and training activities for clinical laboratories, local public health agencies and first responders.

Telephone: (573) 522-1444

ENVIRONMENTAL BACTERIOLOGY UNIT

- Tests public and private water, drinking water supplies and recreational waters for the presence of total Coliform and *Escherichia coli* bacteria.
- Conducts surveillance and response testing of food samples for bacterial contamination.
- Inspects and approves water and milk testing laboratories.
- Tests environmental samples for biological terrorism agents.

Telephone: (573) 751-3334

IMMUNOLOGY UNIT

- Performs syphilis testing to detect Treponemal antibodies.
- Performs HIV testing to detect HIV-1 and/or HIV-2 infection.
- Performs Nucleic Acid Amplification testing on urine or swab specimens for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

Telephone: (573) 751-3334

NEWBORN SCREENING UNIT

- Performs laboratory screening on dried blood spot samples for more than 70 mandated genetic, metabolic and endocrine disorders on all infants born in Missouri so that early detection and intervention can help prevent disabilities and deaths in infants with these disorders.

Telephone: (573) 751-2662

MICROBIOLOGY UNIT

- Examines samples for the presence of enteric pathogens such as *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Campylobacter* and toxigenic *Escherichia coli* (i.e. *E. coli* O157:H7)
- Examines samples for the presence of scabies, intestinal and blood parasites.
- Identifies unusual and dangerous pathogenic bacteria received from other laboratories.
- Examines samples for the presence of *Bordetella* species such as *Bordetella pertussis* (whooping cough).
- Serves as an advanced reference laboratory for detection and the identification of bacterial bioterrorism agents.
- Tests and disseminates phenotypic and genotypic surveillance data on infectious bacteria to aid in public health investigations.
- Examines clinical samples and reference cultures for the presence of mycobacteria including AFB smear and culture, identification, and susceptibility testing and genotyping for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex.
- Performs molecular based antimicrobial susceptibility for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex targeting genes conferring drug resistance.
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VIROLOGY UNIT

- Conducts Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B serology testing to identify cases of viral Hepatitis.
- Conducts Arbovirus IgM testing for West Nile, St. Louis Encephalitis, Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya and related Arboviruses.
- Examines animal brain tissue for the presence of rabies virus.
- Provides virus culture testing of circulating viruses such as: Parainfluenza, Adenovirus, Enteroviruses, Mumps, Varicella Zoster, RSV and Cytomegaloviruses.
- Performs Measles IgM and Rubella IgM serology for diagnostic and epidemiological purposes and also tests for newly emergent viral pathogens.

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MOLECULAR UNIT

- Performs Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) to identify causes of bacterial and viral gastroenteritis, respiratory infections, rash illnesses, Arboviruses including Zika virus.

- As a member of the Laboratory Response Network (LRN), performs rapid testing for the detection and identification of bacterial and viral agents of bioterrorism as well as real-time PCR testing for Middle-Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), Ebola Virus and other emerging disease agents.
- As a member of PulseNet USA, performs “DNA fingerprinting” of bacteria that cause foodborne illness by using Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE) and Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) to detect and define foodborne outbreaks.
- Performs second-tier DNA testing for Krabbe Disease to detect common mutation (30 Kb deletion) in infants with normal GALC enzyme activity.
- Performs screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) and Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) for all infants born in Missouri.
- Performs real-time PCR testing to identify genes that impart antibiotic resistance in bacteria.
- Performs 16S sequencing to identify unknown bacterial and non-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* samples.
- Develops and applies new technologies for Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS).

Telephone: (573) 751-3334

BREATH ALCOHOL UNIT

- Maintains and proposes amendments to Missouri’s administrative regulations for blood alcohol testing.
- Maintains public records of breath and blood testing, permits and equipment maintenance.
- Provides research and scientific support, including conducting trainings, giving presentations and providing expert testimony on interpretation of test results.

Telephone: (573) 840-9734