



**Wauwatosa**  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2019

*Annual  
Report*

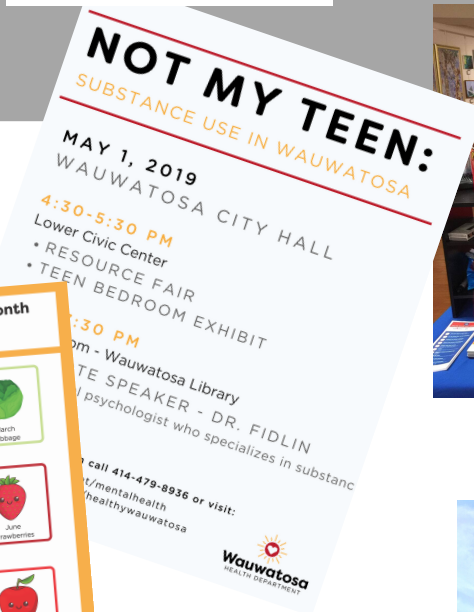
7725 W. North Ave.  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213



[www.wauwatosa.net](http://www.wauwatosa.net)  
414-479-8939

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Wauwatosa Health Department Presents:

## TOSA FOOD SCOOP

Program Newsletter

WINTG



# FROM THE DESK OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

I am pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Health and staff at Wauwatosa Health Department.

This year, the Healthy Wauwatosa coalition, led by health department staff, continued work on our five year Community Health Improvement Plan. Major initiatives completed in 2019 include Substance Use Awareness Week, Mental Health Awareness Month, the continued distribution of the Wauwatosa Substance Use Information and Resource Guide, debut of the teen bedroom exhibit to identify items which could signify substance use among youth, and many more exciting developments.

Additionally, in 2019, health department staff continued work on our five year strategic plan. Major initiatives completed in 2019 include the second annual legislative breakfast, health equity awareness week, updates to our quality improvement and workforce development plans, and the successful implementation and completion of many quality improvement projects.

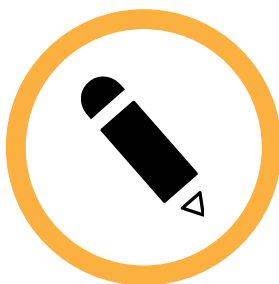
Thank you to the Wauwatosa Board of Health, City Administration, the Common Council, and each Health Department employee for their continued dedication and support of the important work we do every day to ensure all residents and visitors to Wauwatosa are happy, healthy and safe.

*Laura Conklin*

Laura Conklin, MPH

City of Wauwatosa Health Officer & Wauwatosa Health Department Director

## CORE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH



### ASSESSMENT

Assess the health needs of the community, investigate the occurrence of health hazards and analyze the determinants of identified health needs.



### POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Advocate for public health, prioritize health needs and plan and develop policies to address health needs.

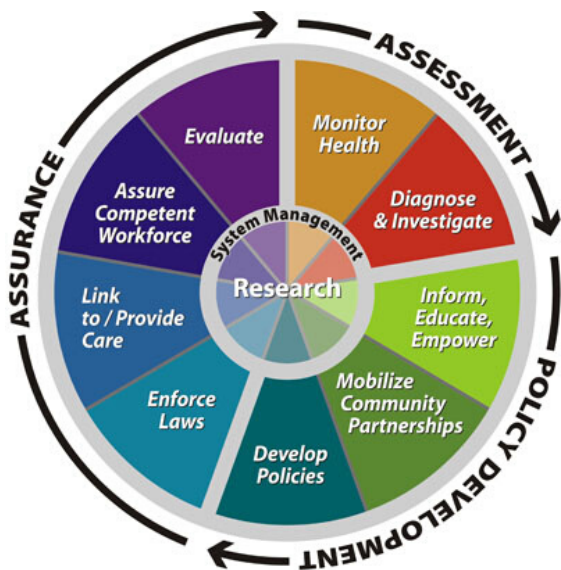


### ASSURANCE

Manage resources and develop organizational structure, implement programs, evaluate programs, and inform and educate the public.

# Wauwatosa Health Department Overview

According to Wisconsin Statute Chapter 251.02(2), counties with a population greater than 500,000 must establish a local health department (LHD). Therefore, there is no county level health department for Milwaukee County, but rather 12 LHDs that are maintained at the municipal level.



The City of Wauwatosa Health Department (WHD) is a Level 3 health department, the highest level of health department in the state. Level 3 health departments must provide at least 14 programs and services to their community, going above and beyond the Ten Essential Services for Public Health Departments.

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 10 Public Health Essential Services for Health Departments

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public and personal healthcare workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

# Meet Our Team

The purpose of the WHD is to protect the health and safety of the entire Wauwatosa community by promoting health, preventing disease, and reducing or eliminating health risk factors. Although some Wauwatosans have had no direct contact with the WHD, many of the improvements that prolong life and protect health and safety are related to public health measures.



Front Row (L-R) Cindi Lambert, Meghan Spredemann, Ericka King, Danielle Hall, Sue Javoroski, Laura Stephens, Paige Miller

Back Row (L-R) Lisa Simonds, Carmen Pangilinan, Laura Conklin, Andy Budde, Tim Maher

## **Mission Statement**

To protect, promote and assure conditions for the health and safety of all residents and visitors of Wauwatosa through the assessment of needs, assisting in the development of public health policies, and the provision of accessible, quality services.

## **Board of Health Members**

Christine Shaw, PhD, APRN; Chair

Cheryl Berdan, Alderperson

Jennifer Cicero, MSW, LCSW; Member

John Dunn, MD; Member

Leslie Martin, MD; Member

## **Health Department Administration**

Laura Conklin, MPH - Health Officer and Director

Laura Stephens, MPH - Public Health Manager

Paige Bernau, RN, BSN - Nursing Manager

Lisa Simonds - Administrative Support

## **Community Health Education Division**

Kari Allison - Public Health Specialist

Carmen Pangilinan, MSW, APSW - Public Health Specialist

## **Environmental Health Division**

Andy Budde, MS, RS - Sanitarian

Meghan Spredemann, REHS, RS - Sanitarian

Courtney Ameen, Administrative Support

Danielle Hall, Administrative Support (resigned 9/19)

## **Public Health Nursing Division**

Sue Javoroski, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Ericka King, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Cindi Lambert, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Tim Maher, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Marilyn Swanson, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Emily Tianen, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse



# Public Health Nursing Division



- 3356 hours spent following up on reportable diseases.
- 14% increase in number of referrals since 2017.

## What do public health nurses do?

The goal of public health nursing is to protect the health and safety of the people in our communities.

## How do they do this?

Nurses work with individuals, groups, families and communities, especially those who are at increased risk of illness, injury, premature death and disability by:

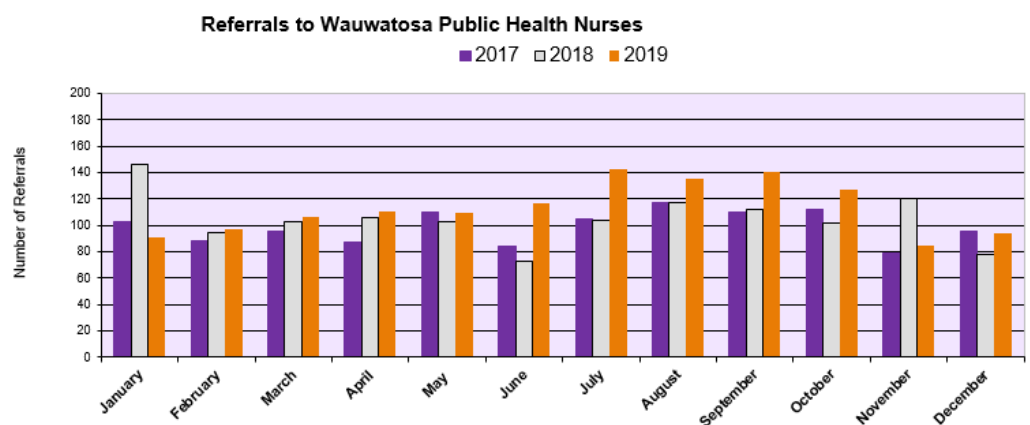
- Taking action to identify and activate resources, services and policies that protect health.
- Responding to current and emerging threats to the public's health and safety.
- Applying nursing and public health principles to assess, develop, implement, and evaluate care plans and health programs related to health promotion, disease prevention, and health protection services for individuals, families and the community. (Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter DHS 139)

## Public Health Focuses on Prevention - some of our programs and services include:

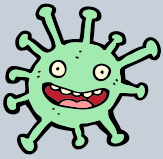
- Adult Health Clinic
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Maternal Child Health services
- Outbreak investigations
- Communicable Disease Investigations
- Immunizations

## 2019 Public Health Nurse Referral Trends

Referrals to Wauwatosa Public Health Nurses have increased over time, from a total of 1186 in 2017 to 1356 in 2019.



# Communicable Disease and Surveillance



- 618 communicable disease investigations.
- Chlamydia was the most frequently reported, which is consistent with local and national trends.

## What is a Communicable Disease?

A communicable disease (CD), also known as an infectious disease, is an illness or condition that is transmitted through direct contact with an infected person or animal.

## Why does WHD monitor communicable disease?

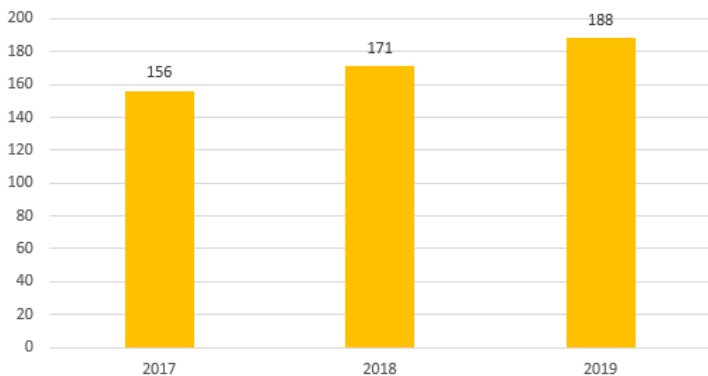
Wisconsin State Statute 252.03 states that a local health department "upon the appearance of any communicable disease in his or her territory shall immediately investigate all circumstances and do what is reasonable for the prevention and suppression of disease".

Communicable disease management accounts for a large portion of the health department's work hours. It requires detailed follow up to ensure protection of the public and is multi-faceted. Management may include investigation, inspection, laboratory collection, isolation and/or the provision of medications or vaccinations.

## Top Five Communicable Diseases

1. Chlamydia	137
2. Negative Pertussis	67
3. Latent Tuberculosis	65
4. Hepatitis C	52
5. Gonorrhea	51

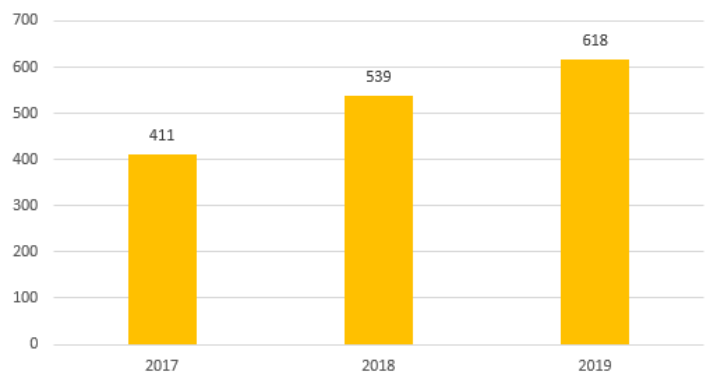
STI Investigations by Year



Sexually transmitted infection (STI) investigations have increased 20% between 2017 and 2019.

## Communicable Diseases Trends

Communicable Disease Investigations by Year



Between 2018 and 2019 there was an 15% increase in Communicable Disease investigations, and a 50% increase when comparing 2017 to 2019.

Tuberculosis Skin Tests	95
Influenza - hospitalized	28



# Immunization Program



- 439 immunizations provided to 402 individuals.
- 170 vaccine-preventable disease investigations.

Immunizations are one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20th century. The WHD maintains an immunization program to prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases, which are diseases for which an effective vaccine is available.

## What immunization services does WHD offer?

WHD offers three immunization clinics per month to Wauwatosa residents, mass flu vaccine clinics at City Hall and off-site locations, and offers immunization and influenza awareness to all parents of newborns. In 2019 there were **572** newborns born.



### 2019 Immunization Numbers

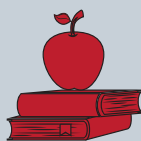
- 36 Immunization Clinics
- 23 Offsite and Mass Flu Clinics
- 276 Calls regarding immunizations

## What are the requirements for school aged children?

The State of Wisconsin requires all students to meet minimum required immunizations for each age/grade level. However, these requirements can be waived for health, religious or personal conviction reasons.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/reqs.htm>

Health Departments in Wisconsin are required to collect and analyze the immunization status of all students attending public and private schools within their jurisdiction. In 2019, Wauwatosa's overall vaccination rate of 94.3% is well above the National Benchmark of 90% laid out in Healthy People 2020.



### 2019 School Immunization Numbers

- 94.3% Overall Rate
- 95.8% Private School Rate
- 93.9% Public School Rate

The WHD also monitors the immunization completion rates of two year olds. In order to be considered up to date by the age of two, a child must have received all of the following immunizations: 4 diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTaP), 3 Polio, 1 Measels-Mumps-Rubella (MMR), 3 Haemophilus type B (HiB), 3 Hepatitis B, 3 Rotavirus, 2 Hepatitis A, and 1 Varicella.

# WHD in the Community

All WHD staff participate in community outreach activities. Nurses staff Adult Health Clinics both at the Health Department and in the community. Public Health Nurses, Public Health Specialists and Management all help out at Health Fairs and with Community Education and participate in community-wide coalitions and committees.

## Adult Health Clinic

- Four times monthly for ages 18+
- Short one-on-one visits
- Blood pressure checks
- Discuss health concerns
- Saw **194** individuals at our clinics in 2019

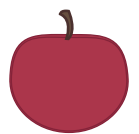


## Health Fairs

- Cover range of topics such as infection control, emergency preparedness, physical activity and nutrition.
- Attended fairs at a variety of community locations such as Hart Park Senior Center, schools, employers, and city events such as Tosa Night Out, Tosa Farmers Market and Kids to Parks Day.

## Community Education

- Fire and Fall Prevention
- Children's Library Summer Reading Program
- Medicine is Not Candy
- Teen Bedroom Exhibit
- Living Well with Chronic Conditions
- Medication Safety for Older Adults



## Coalition and Committee Memberships

- Safe Kids of Southeast Wisconsin
- Wellness in Tosa Schools (WITS)
- Safe Routes Wauwatosa
- Wauwatosa Senior Commission
- Wauwatosa Citizens with Disabilities Commission
- Wauwatosa Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
- Light and Unite Red



# Environmental Health Division

Environmental health is defined as the study of all physical, chemical and biological factors external to a person that can impact health. WHD has two Registered Sanitarians (RS) who respond to nuisance, human health hazard, lead, and food establishment complaints.

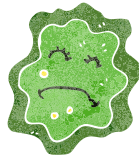
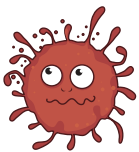
## Nuisances

According to City ordinance, a nuisance is "whatever is dangerous, unsanitary, or unwholesome to human life or health." The WHD conducted **106** nuisance inspections in 2019.



## Top Five Nuisance Reports

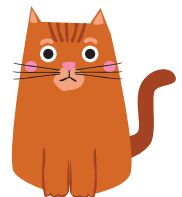
1. Rats	37
2. Other animals	14
3. Other	13
4. Other housing	9
5. Mold	8



## Animal Bites and Rabies Control

### Regulation of Animals Program

- Protects residents from injury and illness associated with animal bites.
- Investigation of all bites from domestic, stray, and wild animals.
- Rabies determinations are critical because although very rare, rabies is almost 100% fatal if left untreated.



### Wauwatosa Municipal Code

Includes authority to quarantine, prohibit or limit dangerous and vicious animals.



### Total Complaints 54

1. Dog	34
2. Bat	10
3. Cat	6
4. Other wild animal	4

Dangerous Dog Declarations: 5

## Human Health Hazards (HHH)

According to City ordinance, HHHs are a "substance, activity, or condition that is known to have potential to cause acute or chronic illness or death; to generate or spread infectious diseases, or otherwise affect the health of the public if the exposure or condition is not abated."

Examples include:

- Lead exposure
- Hazardous material exposure
- Hoarding



### Lead

Many houses and apartments built before 1978 have paint that contains lead. Over 98% of the homes in Wauwatosa were built before 1978.

Lead from paint can pose serious health hazards if not taken care of.

Lead's effects on children are worse as it is absorbed by their bodies more easily. A child's developing nervous system is more easily harmed by lead.

WHD has certified lead risk assessors to answer questions regarding lead hazards, safe remodeling practices, and children's health issues related to lead. Staff conduct environmental assessments in homes and work with the families to monitor children's health and prevent future lead poisonings.

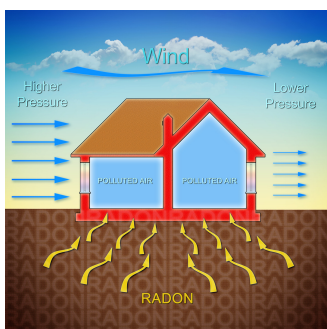
In 2019, WHD began providing water test kits for residents with children under the age of 6 as well as pregnant women.

Of the 87 test kits that were distributed,  
0 came back with elevated levels of lead in water.

### Radon

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas that you can't see, smell, or taste, but may be in your home. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon has been found in all Wauwatosa zip codes. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem. Even very high levels can be reduced to acceptable levels. Testing is the only way to know if there is a radon risk.

In 2019, WHD sold 122 Radon test kits to Wauwatosa residents.



# Food Inspection Program

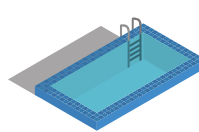
WHD utilizes the Wisconsin Division of Health Services and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection inspection programs to prevent transmission of infectious diseases via food and food service operations from licensed establishments.

WHD inspects over 450 city and state licensed establishments to ensure adherence to federal, state, and local codes and safety guidelines. The establishments that are inspected at least annually include:

- Restaurants and retail food establishments
- Farmers Markets
- Temporary food events
- Hotels/motels
- Public swimming pools
- Vending machines and micro markets
- School cafeterias
- Mobile food trucks and carts

## 2019 Food Inspection Numbers

Restaurant Inspections	170
Retail Food Inspections	46
Schools	12
Hotel/Motel	8
Pools	22



# Sanitarians in the Community

Registered Sanitarians provide their expertise to the community through educational opportunities and by serving on committees and coalitions.

## Health Fairs

- Tosa Night Out
- Tosa Farmer's Market
- Lutheran College Student Health Fair

## Community Education

- Neighborhood Association Council Workshop
- Wauwatosa Police Department PAWtrol presentation
- Vendor Orientation for Tosa Farmer's Market

## Committees and Coalitions

- Milwaukee County Hoarding Task Force
- WI Association of Local Health Departments & Boards Environmental Health Committee
- Southeast Wisconsin Food Safety Task Force
- Planning Committee for Food Safety and Pest Management Seminar

# Community Health Education Division

Health education is intended to help individuals and communities improve their health by increasing their knowledge and influencing attitudes. Programming plays a key role in:

- Preventing disease and injury
- Improving health
- Enhancing quality of life
- Forging community partnerships

## Harvest of the Month

- Highlights a fruit or vegetable to promote a culture of healthful eating.
- Partners include Metcalfe's, the Lutheran Home, Hart Park Senior Center, Wauwatosa Schools, Wauwatosa Public Library and Froedtert and the Medical College.



## Living Well with Chronic Conditions

- Evidence based workshop proven to build participants' confidence in their ability to manage their health condition to maintain active and fulfilling lives.
- Partners include Hart Park Senior Center, Harwood Place and Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging.



## Library Program Collaboration

- During the summer reading program kick-off, the WHD held a "Teddy Bear Check Up" for children.
- One of our Public Health Nurses provided a program on going to the doctor and wellness, inspired by the story, "Splat the Cat Goes to the Doctor" at June Rhyme Time and Story Time sessions.



## Alzheimer's Education Series

- Collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Wisconsin.
- Topics included, "Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia", "Know the Ten Signs: Early Detection Matters", and "Healthy Tips for your Brain and Body: Tips From the Latest Research".
- Provided two separate series, one for City staff and one for community at large.



# Emergency Preparedness

A public health emergency occurs when the ordinary health service capabilities of a community are overwhelmed by an extreme situation or event.

Emergency preparedness refers to the steps taken in order to be ready to respond to and stay safe during an emergency.

Emergency preparedness is an ongoing and collaborative community effort. Having programs in place before an emergency is critical so that agencies are able to support and enhance their response to the event. WHD is an active partner in emergency preparedness in the community.

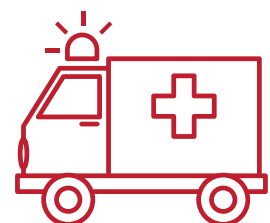
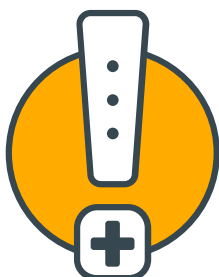


## WHD Partnerships

- Southeast Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC)
  - HERC partners with healthcare facilities, public safety, and first responders. The coalition supports communities before, during, and after disasters and other health-related crises.
- Southeast Wisconsin Incident Management Team (SEW IMT)
  - SEW IMT assists local jurisdictions with the management of an incident, exercise or a preplanned event according to the principles of the Incident Command System to achieve an efficient, safe and effective response.

## You can be a partner in preparedness!

Would you like to help the WHD and other community partners in the event of an emergency? Sign up on the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Registry (WEAVR). Your name and skill set will be stored and utilized as needed if an emergency were to occur in the Wauwatosa community. Sign up today at [www.weavrwi.org](http://www.weavrwi.org)



# Stay in the Loop

## Social Media

Visit us on Facebook at Healthy Wauwatosa, on Twitter @HealthyTosa and on Instagram at healthywauwatosa for daily public health news, education and community events.



## Tosa Food Scoop

Quarterly newsletter sent to all licensed food establishments in Wauwatosa. Our Registered Sanitarians include the latest information on the Wisconsin Food Code and tips to keep establishments clean and safe.



## Public Health Scoop

WHD's quarterly newsletter highlighting public health news and information for each season. Find paper copies throughout City Hall or electronically on our website: [www.wauwatosa.net/health](http://www.wauwatosa.net/health)

