



FACT SHEET

The Florida Department of Health

Division of Environmental Public Health

Our Role The Division of Environmental Public Health protects Floridians and the state's visitors from health risks found in natural and built environments. Statewide, the division administers a variety of programs designed to promote health and prevent illness. To effectively address local needs, each of Florida's 67 county health departments has an Environmental Public Health section staffed with experienced environmental health experts.

- Our Priorities**
- Addressing the environmental aspects of infectious diseases
 - Consult on the short-term and long-term health impact of environmental exposures
 - Ensuring safe drinking water
 - Preventing food borne illness
 - Preventing human diseases from animals, mosquitoes and ticks
 - Preventing excess exposure to radiation
 - Promoting personal hygiene
 - Ensuring basic sanitation and safety services
 - Supporting a sustainable relationship between public health and the built environment

Our Programs **Division Office, 850.245.4250**
Strategic Planning, Statewide Training, Disaster Response and Recovery, and Surveillance. Key Preparedness Partner in Protecting Florida from Threats to its Land, Food, Air, and Water.

Bureau of Community Environmental Public Health, 850.245.4277
Food Safety, Group Care Facilities, Migrant Labor Camps, Biomedical Waste, Radon and Indoor Air Quality, and More.

Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs, 850.245.4070
Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems, Septic Tank Contractor Licensing and Enforcement, Engineering, Research, and Product Review.

Bureau of Water Programs, 850.245.4240
Safe Drinking Water Systems, Public Swimming Pools and Bathing Places, Healthy Marine Beaches, and Potable Well Monitoring.

Bureau of Radiation Control, 850.245.4266
X-Ray Machines and Radioactive Materials Licensure, Nuclear Power Plant and Mining Surveillance, Radiological Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Bureau of Environmental Public Health Medicine, 850.245.4299
Environmental Public Health Tracking, Environmental Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Investigations, Birth Defects Registry, Chemical and Biological Preparedness, Toxicology, University Outreach, Hazardous Waste Site Assessments, and Aquatic Toxins.

Our Impact

- We secure more than \$3 million yearly in federal grants to support environmental public health programs and services statewide.
- We monitor 60% of Florida's drinking water.
- We inspect more than 36,000 public swimming pools twice a year for safety and sanitation.
- We monitor water quality for 300 Florida beach sites for 14 million swimmers throughout the entire year.
- We investigate the public health risks of up to 20 hazardous waste sites in Florida each year.
- We oversee 2.6 million onsite wastewater systems serving 38% of Florida's population.
- We ensure migrant farm worker housing is constructed and maintained in a safe and sanitary manner in Florida.
- We investigate more than 100 food and waterborne outbreaks affecting 2,000 people each year.
- We license and inspect approximately 20,000 radiation facilities across Florida, including hospitals, universities, construction companies and medical facilities.

Our Reputation

- We are recognized nationally by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a leading environmental public health agency.
- We received the 2005 Vision Award from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) for our Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH) Project.
- Our Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs is recognized by the U.S. EPA as a national model and leader.
- Our Bureau of Radiation Control Program received the highest rating possible in seven categories reviewed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and is considered a national model.
- The division provides training to county health department staff, industry, and the general public in a variety of venues across the state and nation.
- We have staff serving on national councils and work groups at the CDC, U.S. EPA, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

More information on Environmental Public Health services is just a computer click or a phone call away. Visit us on the web at www.myfloridaeh.com or contact us today at 850.245.4250.

