Who is the Health District?

The Western Tidewater Health District offers a variety of health services to residents of the cities of Suffolk and Franklin, and in Southampton and Isle of Wight counties. If you have eaten in a restaurant, used a public restroom, enjoyed safe and clean drinking water, attended public festivals, traveled abroad, owned a pet, or built a home, you have likely benefited from our services.

Emergency Preparedness & Response Programs

Western Tidewater Health District's Emergency Preparedness and Response office involves state, regional, and local emergency response partners working together to enhance readiness response for all hazards. This includes bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health emergencies. Our mission is to effectively respond to any emergency impacting public health through preparation, collaboration, education, and rapid intervention.

Medical Reserve Corps

The Western Tidewater Medical Reserve Corps (WTMRC) is one of the 22 local MRC units across Virginia. We are composed of teams of medical and public health professionals along with non-medical community members. WTMRC volunteers utilize their skills, expertise, and commit time to support ongoing public health initiatives and health emergencies throughout Western Tidewater Health District. If you are interested in volunteering as a member of WTMRC, please visit vvhs.vamrc.org.

Visit Our Website

www.vdh.virginia.gov/western-tidewater

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Rabies Control

Animal bite incidents are investigated to prevent the transmission of rabies. Animal bites and scratches to humans from wild or domestic animals must be reported. Exposures of domestic animals to wild animals must also be reported. Most confirmed cases of rabies have occurred in the wild animal population, and because pets often interact with both wild animals and humans, pets must be vaccinated against rabies.



Onsite Sewage Disposal

The health department regulates the disposal of sewage on residential and commercial building sites where public utilities are not available. Site and soil evaluations are conducted to determine site suitability for on-site wastewater (septic) systems. The health department issues Sewage Disposal System Construction Permits, and ensures systems are inspected upon installation. Education on septic system care and maintenance is a priority of the program.

Private Water Supplies

Environmental Health regulates all private drinking and non-drinking water wells. These wells must be permitted, inspected and approved by the health department to ensure access to safe water, and to protect our groundwater resources.

Food Protection

The health department continually inspects food establishments to maintain safe food-handling, storage practices, and hygiene. Education programs for service personnel, regular site inspections, and the evaluation of food safety procedures are in place to ensure the safety of staff and patrons.

WESTERN TIDEWATER HEALTH DISTRICT



City of Suffolk

135 Hall Ave. Suffolk, VA 23434
(757) 514-4700

Isle of Wight County

919 S. Church St.
Smithfield, VA 23430
(757) 279-3071

Southampton County

26022 Administration Center Dr.
Courtland, VA 23837
(757) 653-3040

City of Franklin

200 Fairview Dr. Franklin, VA 23851
(757) 562-6109

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Western Tidewater Health District

Western Tidewater Health District

Mission Statement

The health district's mission is to achieve and maintain optimum personal and community health with an emphasis on disease prevention, environmental protection, and the promotion of good health practices.

FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

Our family planning clinics offer a full range of services and options, including health assessments, physical examinations, education, laboratory tests, and consultation on birth control options.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Every location provides testing and treatment, in addition to confidential counseling for most sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Some services are free.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Services are provided for the purpose of prevention, detection, and follow-up on reports of incidences of contagious disease.

VITAL RECORDS

Each local health department provides copies of death, birth, divorce and marriage certificates. A nominal fee will be charged for requested documents.

*** Birth records are public information 100 years after the date of the event; death, marriage, and divorce records, 25 years after the event. Vital Records are available to immediate family members only- mother, father, husband, wife, child, brother, sister and grandparents with valid ID. Birth records can be issued to the legal guardian with proof of custody papers. Aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws, etc. cannot obtain a vital record.

CHILD SAFETY SEATS

Free child safety seats are available to those who meet the required income criteria. Clients must attend a brief educational session on the proper use of car seats.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Local health departments offer immunizations for adults and children. Most vaccines for children are free of charge. More information is available by phone or online. Hours and available services may vary by location.

WIC

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is a supplemental nutrition program for pregnant, post-partum, and breastfeeding women, as well as infants, and children up to 5 years of age. The program provides education on nutrition and breastfeeding along with offering supplemental foods. WIC also partners with other healthcare providers by offering referrals. To be eligible for the WIC program, applicants must meet categorical, residential, income, and nutrition requirements.

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

The Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers 28 weeks pregnant or less with their first child. This is a voluntary prevention program that provides registered nurse home visitation services to low-income, first-time mothers.

The Obici Healthcare Foundation assists with funding for the Nurse-Family Partnership.

Nurse-Family Partnership
Helping First-Time Parents Succeed®

MEDICATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP)

Assistance for prescription medication and nutritional supplements may be available based on the following criteria:

- Be a resident of the City of Franklin or Southampton County, OR have a doctor in the City of Franklin or Southampton County
- Do not have prescription drug insurance or are paying high co-pays
- Have Medicare part D and are paying full price or high co-pays for your medications
- Demonstrate need based on income

For more information, call 757-562-2487

DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM

Free diabetes educational opportunities are available based on the following:

- Must be a resident or have a physician in Franklin or Southampton County

For more Information, call 757-562-2169

We offer free education on:

- Prediabetes guidance
- Diabetes screening
- Insulin preparation and administration
- Glucometer reading
- Dietary counseling
- A1C testing free of charge

The Western Tidewater Health District is able to offer many programs through the continued generosity of Franklin & Southampton Charities.

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