

OREGON'S PATH TO PUBLIC HEALTH MODERNIZATION

A modern public health system ensures foundational public health programs are in reach for every person in Oregon—protection from communicable disease and environmental risks, health promotion, prevention of chronic diseases and injury, and responding to new health threats.

Where public health happens

Eighty percent of what shapes our health happens outside the doctor's office. Public health promotes the health of all people in Oregon where they live, work, learn and play by:

- protecting people from communicable disease,
- preparing for and responding to emergencies,
- limiting environmental risks to human health
- promoting health and countering the harmful impact of chronic disease and injury,
- and ensuring equitable access to quality health care.

Oregon's public health system works tirelessly to keep communities safe and healthy. Unfortunately, not every community in Oregon is equally equipped to provide these essential health programs. We need to upgrade our public health system in ways that recognize how our physical environment, social and economic conditions, and health behaviors affect us.

In every community

Public health in Oregon requires a full-system upgrade to ensure all people, no matter where they live, have access to essential public health protections. An assessment of the public health system found gaps between our current and modernized public health system—identifying that **most foundational public health programs are limited or minimal in over a third of Oregon communities.**

A modern system will enable every Oregon community to provide essential prevention programs and respond to emerging health threats, like Zika, Cascadia earthquake, air contaminants or lead in our water. Investing in these essential public programs is critical to the health of all people in Oregon now and for future generations.

Health within reach

Modernized public health is critical to Oregon's movement toward **health system transformation**. A modern public health system helps Oregon achieve the Triple Aim: better health and better care at a lower cost. But for people in Oregon, it is simpler than that: **a healthy life, within our reach.**