



A Day in the Life of a Public Health employee

Each April communities around the country join together to celebrate the many contributions of our local public health departments. Public health is a part of our everyday lives, from the water we drink and the air we breathe to the vaccines that help us stay healthy. Here is a glimpse of a Day in the Life of one dedicated Mid-Michigan District Health Department employee who proudly serves the residents of Clinton County each and every day.

Meet Becky

Name: Becky Stoddard, R.N.

Occupation: Communicable Disease Nurse

Employer: Mid-Michigan District Health Department, St. Johns Office



My day began bright and early in southern Clinton County with a home visit with a client who has tuberculosis (TB). She required daily observation to assure she was taking her medication and following appropriate preventative measures. I delivered the medication and provided education to the client and her husband.

After the home visit I drove to the office. I wasn't there long when a client came in to receive his HIV test results. In addition to receiving his results, I educated him on ways to prevent future exposure to HIV.

I then packed vaccine and supplies for a H1N1 clinic the health department was having at a local church. When everything was ready to go, I loaded the car and headed off to the church. I helped set up the clinic and administered vaccinations, where approximately 85 people received H1N1 shots.

On my way back to the office I stopped by a nursing home to pick up questionnaires that I had dropped off earlier regarding a previous Norovirus outbreak at the facility. I shared the information with our epidemiologist, who analyzed the data to determine potential causes of the outbreak so preventative education could be provided to the nursing home staff.

I made it back to the office just in time for a meeting with supervisors and a representative from the Susan G. Komen Foundation regarding our grant, which offers free breast cancer screenings and mammograms to women without insurance.

In my spare time I answered multiple phone calls, worked on communicable disease cases that were reported in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS), entered new cases in MDSS and completed my communicable disease log.