

Advocacy for the Hamilton County Public Health Department in Their Efforts at Treating Tuberculosis

LC 8

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Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH)

Mission: Hamilton County Public Health educates, serves and protects our community for a healthier future.

Vision: Healthy choices. Healthy lives. Healthy communities.

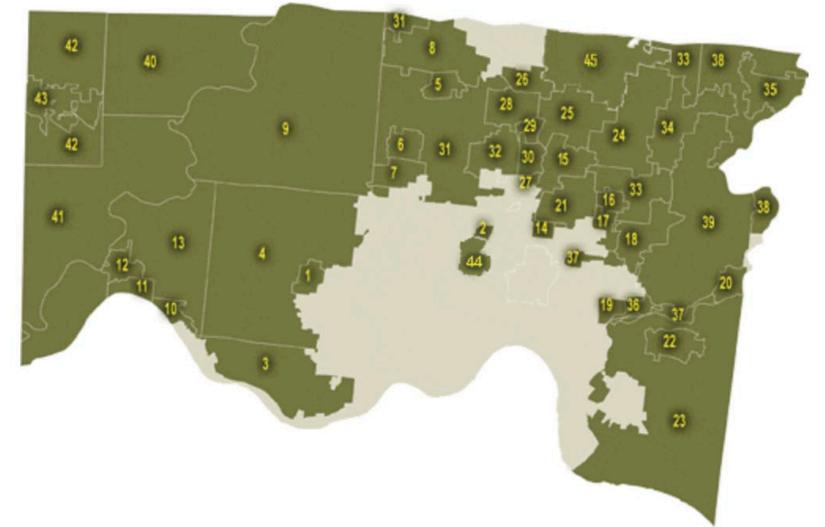
HCPH serves 45 communities in Hamilton County.

Services provided by HCPH include clinical services (testing and treatments), harm reduction, and environmental health monitoring.

Tuberculosis Clinic

184 E. McMillan St., Cincinnati, OH 45219

The clinic provides: tuberculosis testing, monitoring, and treatment.



**HAMILTON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT

HCPHD offers a variety of services for the residents, businesses, and communities. Some examples include:

Clinical: HIV/STI, Mpox, and Tuberculosis Testing and Treatment

Environmental Health: Inspections, Clean Kitchen Awards

Harm Reduction: NARCAN Distribution, Stigma-Free Access for Everyone

Health Promotion and Education: Tobacco Education & Prevention, WeTHRIVE!, Data and Reports, Fact Sheets

Waste Management

Emergency Preparedness

HCPH
Impact

Specific Impacts of Tuberculosis Program

Resources offered by Hamilton County Public Health as pertains to TB care consist of:

Direct Observation Therapy

Immunization clinic appointments

TB medication delivery to those in Hamilton county and other surrounding communities that do not have a health department.

Treatment plan patient education services

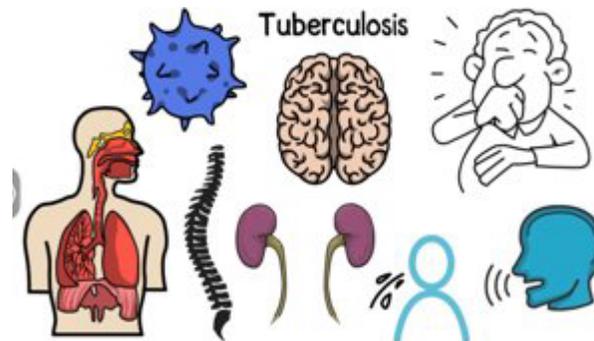
Nutritional support tailored for TB patients

Our Social Determinant of Health: Health Education

The Hamilton County Health Department has documented struggles with patient adherence to tuberculosis medication regimens within their tuberculosis clinic.

They suggested that the problem could be due to lack of educational resources, shortage of staff, and the lack of community understanding of TB as a disease.

We created a two-minute tuberculosis education video with a pre- and post-survey to assess patient's knowledge about their disease. This intervention was administered during routine appointments, and 12 current patients successfully completed the video and surveys.



Scan QR code for a link to our educational video!

Challenges Faced by HCHD

Primary Challenge: difficulty communicating with patients and ensuring treatment compliance during COVID restrictions

- Patients vary widely in their understanding of tuberculosis and its treatment
- Patients also varied in their compliance with clinic visits, which compounded difficulties in patient education
- Patients also may not have had access to the internet nor cellular devices, which made outreach to patients complicated
- The tuberculosis clinic was staffed with only two nurses for the entirety of Hamilton County, with a third being recently hired
- Low staffing made it difficult for the nurses to go out into the community for outreach and to ensure patient compliance
- As such, the lack of staffing compounded the difficulties faced in terms of patient communication and treatment compliance

I will help!!



What Can Be Done?

Over the past year we have been collecting data on how to educate and treat TB in Cincinnati. The video we created was a success in helping patients become educated, but there are more obstacles that the city can help tackle.

- Transportation and/or better web access to help patients take their meds.
- Funding for more staffing
- Funding for more educational media
- A platform for HCPH To spread awareness about TB

Questions?

Thank you!