



# **ABOUT US**

One of ten county health departments in the South Health District, Echols County Health Department serves to promote and protect the health and well-being of anyone who lives, works or plays in Echols County, Georgia.

# **VITAL RECORDS**

Certified birth or death certificates available for anyone whose birth or death occurred in Georgia

Learn more about South Health District www.southhealthdistrict.com



# **Provided Programs & Services**

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

Develop plans to mitigate, respond to, and recover from events which pose a significant threat to the health of the public. Conduct public awareness campaigns, training, and exercises with health department staff, the healthcare community, and a wide range of partners at the local, state, and federal levels.

# **Environmental Health**

Permits and inspects septic system installations, food service establishments, tourist accommodations, public swimming pools, and body art establishments to help minimize the the risk of illness or disease. Issues well location permits and performs bacteriological tests on water samples. Investigates animal bites to help prevent the spread of rabies.

# Epidemiology

Conducts follow-up and investigation for individuals who have been exposed to a communicable disease. Conducts surveillance to detect disease and recommends preventative measures, treatment, and control to prevent further disease outbreaks in the community.

# Telemedicine

Children's Medical Services, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) and the Hypertension Program are now equipped for their patients to be seen by physicians that are not located in our district via telemedicine. Telemedicine is a health care delivery method that applies high-speed telecommunications systems, computer technology, and specialized medical cameras to examine, diagnose, treat and educate patients at a distance.

# **General Nursing**

Immunizations, blood tests, hearing, vision, and dental screenings; tuberculosis, cancer, blood pressure and blood sugar screenings; head lice checks, and pregnancy tests are all available through the General Clinic. Services are provided by protocoled public health nurses. Referrals to specialty programs are made as needed.

# **Hypertension Program**

Blood pressure monitoring, medication management, and counseling on weight loss, diet and exercise are available through the Hypertension Program, if eligible.

#### Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Provides health education and wellness activities focused on chronic disease prevention and healthy behaviors.

#### **Opioid & Substance Misuse Response**

Responsible for leading statewide strategic planning efforts to respond to the opioid epidemic and other emerging substance misuse. The program's mission is Tto implement a sustainable, collaborative and multidisciplinary approach in response to Georgia's opioid and substance misuse crisis

# **Oral Health**

Primarily school-based dental health education for PreK – 5th grade students. Oral Health educates on the importance of Brushing, Flossing and Proper Nutrition. Free toothbrushes are given to all children.

## Immunizations/Travel Immunizations

Immunizations are available for all ages. At your request, the health department will also provide adult flu and pneumonia vaccines on-site at your businesses.

Lowndes County Health Department offers most travel vaccines and is an approved Yellow Fever Vaccine site. Persons interested in getting travel vaccines should call the health department (229-333-5257) in advance to check on vaccine availability.

#### Infectious Disease Program

Follow- up is provided for individuals with an Infectious Disease such as tuberculosis, meningitis, perinatal hepatitis or others. Contact investigation is included.

# Sexually Transmitted Infection

If an individual suspects they have a sexually transmitted infection, physical exams, lab tests, treatment and follow-up is provided through the STD program. Counseling and testing for persons who are at risk for contracting the HIV virus is also available. Follow up services including comprehensive outpatient primary care and case management is available to persons with HIV/AIDS.

#### **School Health Nurses**

Public health nurses collaborate closely with school nurses to provide healthcare information in school clinics, focusing on childhood asthma, the administration of Epinephrine and Albuterol/Levabuterol in the school setting, emergency medication, scoliosis screenings, and school-based flu clinics with an emphasis on special immunization initiatives, hearing and vision testing, and adolescent health and wellness.

# Services For Women & Children

# Family Planning Services

Physical exams, birth control, STD and pregnancy testing, education and counseling regarding health issues.

#### Women, Infants & Children

WIC is a special nutrition program that offers nutrition education, nutritious foods and referrals to health care providers for eligible pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum women, infants and children up to age five.

# **Car Seat Program**

Provides education on legal requirements for car seats, appropriate seat selection, and a provision of up to three seats per family for families that might not otherwise be able to purchase a car seat. Must be on Medicaid, WIC or Food Stamps and must be a resident of Echols County to be eligible.

#### Well Baby

Complete physical exams provided for children birth to five years. Included in this program are screening tests, immunizations and nutrition counseling.

# **Perinatal Programs**

This program is composed of Perinatal Case Management (PCM), and Pregnancy Related Services (PRS). Helps pregnant women identify their needs for the delivery of a healthy baby and creates a plan to address those needs.

#### **Children with Special Needs**

A unit of programs working together to provide familycentered services to newborns through age 21 years who have or are at risk to develop medical conditions and/or significant develop- mental delays.

# **Health Check**

Provides for the screening of lead, medical and/ or developmental problems in children who do not have a healthcare provider. Medicaid covers from infancy to the 21st birthday and PeachCare covers up to age 19.

# Sickle Cell Screening & Counseling

This program serves ages birth to 21 years with medical screening and education about sickle cell disease and other abnormal blood disorders.

#### **Adolescent Health & Youth Development**

This program provides financial, educational and instructional support for youth related activities. It promotes healthy behavior for adolescents aged 10-19. Education is provided in a youth friendly environment addressing risky behaviors that are attractive to teens.

# **Breast & Cervical Cancer Program**

this program is designed for women ages 40-64 who are uninsured or under insured to detect early cancer and pre-cancers of the breast and cervix. This program provides at no cost to eligible women, a limited annual exam including a Pap test, as needed. It also provides a mammogram and diagnostic follow up if needed. Breast cancer gene screening is available to anyone at no cost.

#### **Presumptive Eligibility**

Medicaid coverage is provided to income-eligible pregnant women and women diagnosed with breast and/or cervical cancer during the Medicaid application processing period.

Our services are available to everyone, regardless of age, race, religion, national origin, political belief, disability or sex. We charge only minimal fees for our services, and some services have adjusted fee scales based on ability to pay. Health care services will be provided even if someone is unable to pay. Medicaid, Medicare and some private insurances are also accepted forms of payment for covered services.

