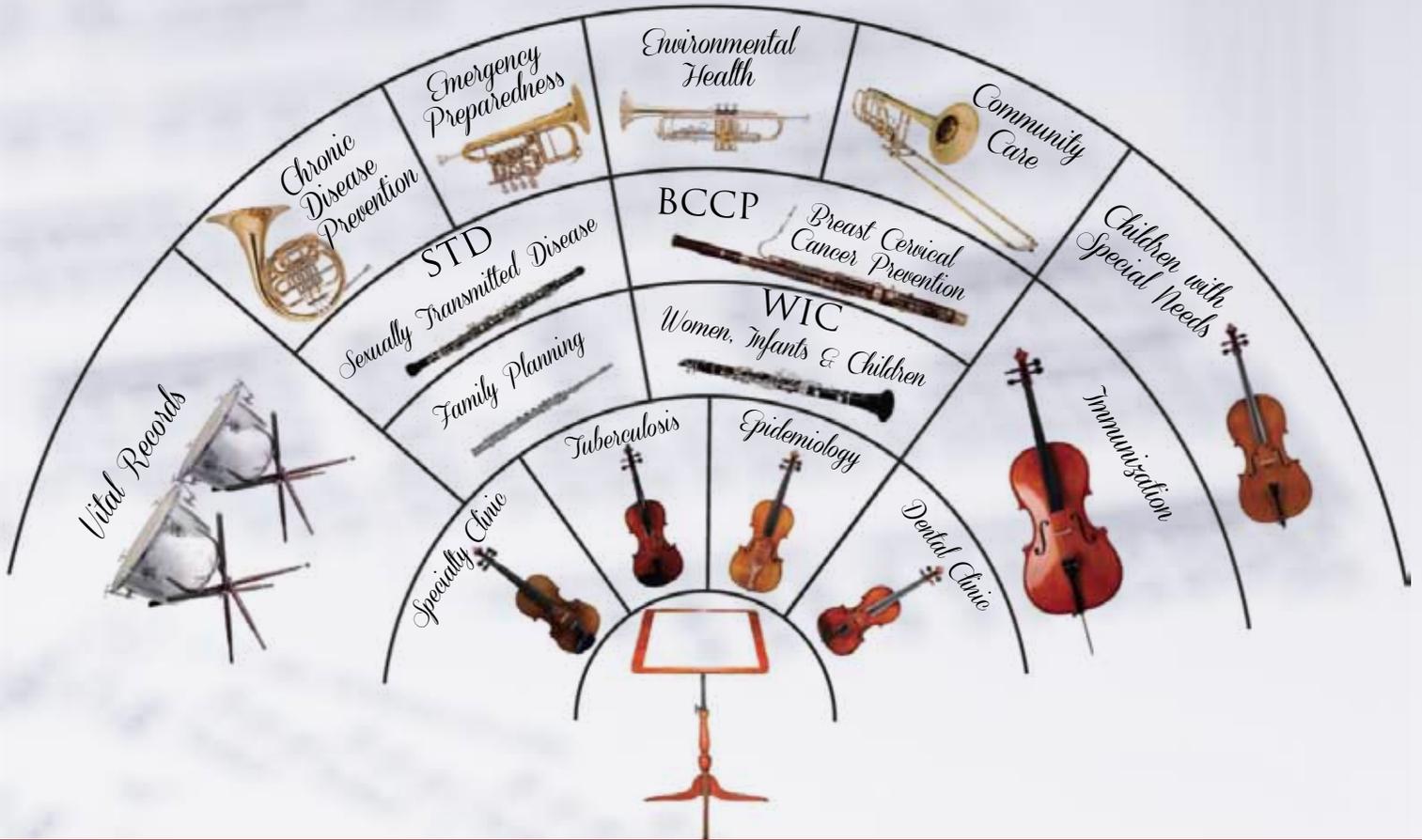


PUBLIC HEALTH *in Harmony*



A GUIDE TO SERVICES

DPH

Georgia Department of Public Health

Northwest Health District

NORTHWEST HEALTH DISTRICT GUIDE TO SERVICES



From the District Health Director

Welcome to the Northwest Health District.

We are pleased to provide you with useful information about the varied programs and services we provide to ensure the health and safety of Northwest Georgia. Together, the success of our mission relies on all of us working to promote activities that help us prevent diseases, protect and promote our health and wellbeing, and respond appropriately to all emergencies and disasters.

In the Northwest Health District, we strive to work together in public health to ensure that we provide excellent services and programs that are targeted to the needs of our community. Our goal is to remain accountable and accessible to you as we work tirelessly to provide effective and sustainable services that enhance the safety and health for all of us. Please take time to enjoy and get to know your Georgia Department of Public Health Northwest Health District, fondly known as District 1-1.

Dr. Unini Odama, M.D., M.P.H

Core Values

Our workforce has chosen to be great by focusing on our core values of:

PEOPLE—teammates, customers, clients, and partners.

EXCELLENCE—commitment, accountability, and transparency

PARTNERSHIPS—common public health goals shared by a united team using internal and external teamwork approaches

INNOVATION—new and creative avenues to solve problems

SCIENCE—applying best practices and evidence based programs to meet the needs of our communities

Our goal is to become a standard-bearing district committed to the safety and health of Northwest Georgians, to demonstrate excellence in public health service stimulated by creativity, and to serve with vigor and joy knowing that each of us make a difference.

*A Symphony in Harmony
for the Service of Community*



Our Theme of Harmony

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What is Health?

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. — World Health Organization

National Vision of Public Health

Public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. While a doctor treats people who are sick, those of us working in public health try to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place. We also promote wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors. From conducting scientific research to educating about health, people in the field of public health work to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy. That can mean vaccinating children and adults to prevent the spread of disease, or educating people about the risks of alcohol and tobacco. Public health sets safety standards to protect workers and develop school nutrition programs to ensure kids have access to healthy food. Public health works to track disease outbreaks, prevent injuries, and shed light on why some of us are more likely to suffer from poor health than others. The many facets of public health include speaking out for laws that promote smoke-free indoor air and seatbelts, spreading the word about ways to stay healthy, giving science-based solutions to problems, helping to prepare for emergencies, and preventing disease.

Georgia State Focus for Public Health

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is the lead state agency in preventing disease, injury, and disability; promoting health and well-being; and preparing for and responding to disasters from a health perspective. In 2011, the General Assembly restored DPH to its own state agency after more than 30 years of consolidation with other departments. At the state level, DPH functions through numerous divisions, sections, programs, and offices. Locally, DPH funds and collaborates with Georgia's 159 county health departments and 18 public health districts. Through the changes, the mission has remained constant – to protect the lives of all Georgians. Today, DPH's main functions include: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Maternal and Child Health, Infectious Disease and Immunization, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Emergency Medical Services, Pharmacy, Nursing, Volunteer Health Care, the Office of Health Equity, Vital Records, and the State Public Health Laboratory.

County Boards of Health Purpose

General oversight of the Health Department in each county is the responsibility of the County Board of Health, comprised of elected officials and appointed community representatives, under the supervision of the Health Director for the Georgia Department of Public Health Northwest Health District. Board of Health members as mandated by Georgia code are:

- CEO of County or Elected Designee
- County School Superintendent
- CEO of Largest City or Elected Designee
- Physician (Dentist or Nurse) appointed by the County Commission
- Consumer or Licensed Nurse appointed by City Commission
- Consumer advocate appointed by the County Commission
- Advocate for needy, under-privileged or elderly appointed by the County Commission

CLINICAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

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Breast/Cervical Cancer
Children 1st
Children's Medical Services
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
Family Planning
Health Checks
Health Promotion
Immunizations
Pregnancy and Women's Health
Sexually Transmitted Infections
Tuberculosis Prevention
Vital Records
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Food Service
Georgia Healthy Homes and Lead Prevention
Land Use and Onsite Sewage
Swimming Pools and Spas
Rabies
Tattoo and Body Art
Tourist Accommodations
Well Water

EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAMS

Acute Disease and Outbreak Investigation
Disease Surveillance
Health Data Analysis and Guidance

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS

Public Health and Community Preparedness for Response
Regional Health Coalitions
Strategic National Stockpile



Clinical Services

The Northwest Health District's Clinical Services provide just as diverse a collection of critical resources as the communities that they serve.

Babies Can't Wait

Babies Can't Wait (BCW) is Georgia's early intervention program serving families of infants and toddlers birth to three years of age with developmental delays/disabilities. The program provides early identification and screening of children with developmental delays, and chronic health conditions while providing support and resources to enhance the child's learning and development. This is a federally mandated program under the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA), and provides a framework for coordinating developmental, educational, and community supports within the child's natural environment, which includes home and community settings.

Breast/Cervical Cancer

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP) is a statewide breast and cervical cancer early detection program that is offered by public health departments and selected nonprofit agencies to low income, uninsured women.

Must have a household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

Must have no insurance and not otherwise eligible for Medicaid or Medicare

Must be a biological female

Must be a resident of the state of Georgia

Must be 40 to 64 years old (women under 40 years of age with symptoms of breast cancer may be eligible)

Children 1st

The Children 1st Program serves as a point of entry into other Children with Special Needs Programs. It promotes early identification of children birth to five years of age with conditions (medical or socio-environmental) which may place them at risk for poor health and/or developmental outcomes. Referrals are made from hospitals, partners, and physicians to public health based on the needs of the child and family to ensure the optimal health and development of the child. Children 1st assists families in recognizing and addressing needs that may affect their capacity to provide healthy, safe, and nurturing environments for their children. Children 1st monitors the health of the child with his/her pediatrician for a period of one year after enrollment to ensure that the child has ongoing medical care, including but not limited to well visits and immunizations, that the appropriate follow-up is completed if needed.

Children's Medical Services

Children's Medical Services (CMS) promotes improved health and wellness outcomes for children and youth (birth to 21) with chronic medical conditions, including cerebral palsy, down syndrome, cleft palate, asthma, diabetes, scoliosis, sickle cell, hearing loss . CMS helps to improve access to health care financing, reduces duplication of services, collaborates with medical providers through care coordination, improves the capacity of patients/families to self-manage their care, and assists with transition from pediatric to adult health care. CMS pays for and arranges direct health care services related to the patient's CMS eligible diagnosis which may include office visits, diagnostic testing, inpatient/outpatient services, medications, durable medical equipment, transportation, and interpretive services.

Family Planning

The Family Planning program offers reproductive health care services designed to provide women support with planning when to have children, reducing unintended pregnancies, determining effective birth control methods, and improving family wellbeing.

- **Birth-control services:** Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs) including implants and IUDs, three-month injections, oral contraceptive pills, the ring, condoms, and emergency contraception
 - STD and HIV screening, testing, and treatment
 - Pregnancy testing and counseling
 - Preconceptional health counseling and pregnancy planning
 - Cervical-and-breast cancer screening
 - Women's preventive health exams
 - Health education and counseling
 - Abstinence education

**No patient will be turned away for inability to pay.*

Health Check

Health Check in Georgia is a preventive health program providing services such as assessment and screening for vision and hearing, a comprehensive physical examination, nutrition, developmental screening, TB screening, lead screening, and much more. Infants, children, and adolescents from the ages of birth to 21 years of age are eligible for this program. Health Check offers well-child checkups at no charge for Peach Care members under 19 and Medicaid members under 21.

Health Promotion

The Health Promotion program's goal is to encourage Georgians to improve the quality of their lives by achieving healthy lifestyles, creating healthy environments, and preventing chronic disease, disability, and premature death.

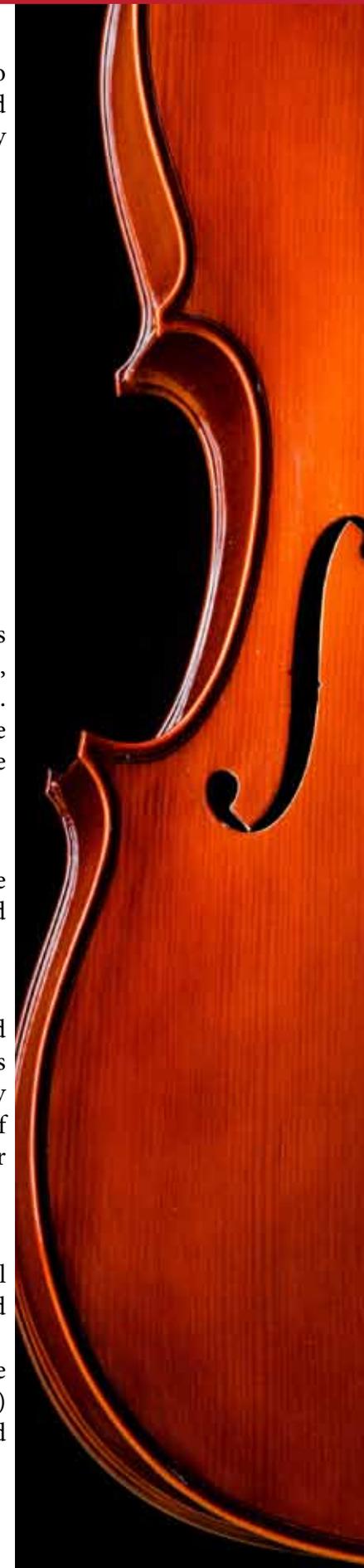
Specialty Care Clinic and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

The Specialty Care Clinic and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provide HIV-related services for those who do not have sufficient health care coverage or financial resources for coping with HIV disease. The program provides specialized outpatient primary care and referrals for HIV patients. The care provided is based on the principles of confidentiality, accessibility, comprehensiveness, health promotion, and consumer satisfaction.

Immunizations

The ultimate goal of the Immunizations program is to reduce the overall potential for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases for Georgia's children, adolescents, and adults.

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program helps provide vaccines to children whose parents or guardians may not be able to afford them. Vaccines for Children (VFC) provides vaccines to children and teens at no or low cost to uninsured or under-insured families and others who qualify.



Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

The EHDI Program is a program that screens for hearing loss and maintains and supports a comprehensive, coordinated, statewide screening and referral system. EHDI includes screening for hearing loss in the birthing hospital; referral and follow-up for a rescreen on those who do not pass the hospital screening; for newborns who do not pass the rescreening; referral for diagnostic audiological evaluation; and linkage to appropriate intervention for those babies diagnosed with hearing loss. County Health Departments have the equipment and trained staff to conduct newborn hearing screenings on infants birth to three months of age who do not pass their initial hearing screening, typically done in the hospital prior to discharge. Early detection of hearing loss leads to early diagnosis and intervention that promotes early language development and better health outcomes.

Pregnancy and Women's Health

County Health Departments are designated as a Qualified Provider to enroll eligible applicants in the Medicaid program through Presumptive Eligibility (PE). This is a temporary coverage prior to a formal determination of eligibility by the local Right from the Start Medicaid (RSM) Project or the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). There are two categories that may be applied for in the Health Department:

- **Presumptive Eligibility for Women's Health Medicaid:** Any uninsured, low-income woman who has been diagnosed with breast-or-cervical cancer may apply for *Presumptive Eligibility Women's Health Medicaid* in their local Health Department.
- **Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women:** Pregnant women may apply for *Presumptive Eligibility Medicaid* at their local County Health Department.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Health Departments offer testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (often referred to as STDs or STIs).

Standard STD/STI testing includes testing for:

- Chlamydia
- Genital Warts (visual exam)
- Gonorrhea
- Herpes (visual exam) – further tests will require an additional fee
- HIV
- Syphilis
- Trichomoniasis

No patient will be turned away for inability to pay.

Adolescent Health & Youth Development

Adolescent Health and Youth Development (AHYD) Program services are available (at no cost) through the Northwest Health District, currently offered in the Bartow and Floyd County Health Departments.

- Population-based prevention and public education activities and programs aimed at promoting responsible and healthy lifestyle behaviors
- Partner collaboration and referral to link youth and their families to comprehensive, quality systems of preventive, primary, and specialty health care and other community resources
- Outreach and public education activities that create awareness and access among hard-to-reach youth and their families
- Community involvement and collaboration as the mechanisms for involving parents, youth, and others in promoting positive youth development

Tuberculosis Prevention

The mission of the Northwest Health District Tuberculosis (TB) Program is to prevent and control the transmission of TB and ensure treatment of disease due to TB. This is accomplished by identifying and treating persons who have active TB disease; locating, screening, and treating contacts; and screening high-risk populations. The Georgia TB Program has the legal responsibility for all TB clients in Georgia regardless of who provides the direct services.

Vital Records

In each Georgia county, there is a vital records registrar and vital records custodian appointed by the state registrar to provide birth and death certificates upon request. Depending upon the county, the vital records registrar or custodian may be located at the county health department or in the office of the probate judge. In the Northwest Health District, the Catoosa and Floyd County Health Departments provide this service.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The WIC programs provides invaluable nutrition education as well as supplemental foods to low-income families. Participants receive a nutrition assessment, health screening, medical history, body measurements (weight and height), hemoglobin check, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, referrals to other health and social services, and vouchers for healthy foods.

Working and non-working individuals may qualify for WIC, including families with income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level or enrolled in Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or food stamp programs. Income eligibility increases with the number of individuals in the family. Please check with your local WIC clinic for specific income guidelines.

There is no charge for WIC services.





Environmental Health Services

The Northwest Health District's Environmental Health Program provides robust primary prevention through a combination of surveillance, education, enforcement, and assessment programs designed to identify, prevent, and abate environmental conditions that have the potential to adversely impact human health.

Food Service Program

Primary activities of the Food Service Program focus on minimizing food-borne related illness by permitting and regulating food service facilities, investigations of food-borne related complaints and illnesses, and the education of food service operators. This program covers restaurants, hospitals, catering establishments, food carts, and other similar facilities where food items are prepared and sold.

Georgia Healthy Homes and Lead Prevention Program

GHHLPP's main goal is to monitor for lead exposure, provide case management and environmental investigations of physician-referred lead poisoned children, and provide strategic planning for housing-related health hazards.

Land Use and Onsite Sewage Program

The Land Use and Onsite Sewage Program minimizes potential health issues related to improper disposal of wastewater by permitting and regulating facilities utilizing on-site sewage management systems for wastewater disposal such as private homes, schools, tourist accommodations, and small-scale industry. Program support activities include investigation and inspection of repairs made to improperly functioning on-site sewage management systems, and the education, training, and certification for environmentalists, septic tank installers, pumpers, soil scientists, geologists, and engineers involved in installing, maintaining, and repairing on-site sewage management systems.

Rabies Program

Rabies is a zoonotic disease most often transmitted through infected saliva that enters the body by way of an animal bite. The objective of this program is to minimize the potential health risk due to contact with infected animals through educational efforts and community activities, including rabies vaccination clinics, media events, participation in oral rabies vaccination programs, and providing educational materials.

Swimming Pools and Spas Program

The main focus of the Swimming Pools and Spas program is to minimize illnesses and injuries associated with contaminated or hazardous conditions in or around public swimming pools by ensuring initial pre-construction plan review, permitting and inspecting pools, and ensuring continuing education and training for pool and spa operators.

Tattoo and Body Art Program

The regulation, inspection, and education services regarding tattoos and body art facilities focus on the proper licensure of body artists, sanitation of facilities and equipment, appropriate age limitations, and procedure requirements.

Tourist Accommodation Program

Minimizing the public exposure to unsanitary conditions and potential health risk by the permitting and regulation of tourist accommodations, such as motel, hotel, bed-and-breakfast and similar facilities providing overnight accommodations to the public, is the primary goal of the Tourist Accommodation Program.

Water supplies

Well water testing programs at the county level assist in minimizing waterborne illness related to contaminated well water by providing local resources for sampling, consultation for facilities utilizing individual water supply systems through sample collection, testing, and site evaluation.





Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related conditions or events in specified populations and the application of this study to the control of health problems.

The Northwest Health District's Epidemiology Section carries out a number of activities to identify diseases and describe health conditions, assess health, and develop recommendations to control diseases and improve the overall health status of our ten-county Public Health District.

These include:

- Conduct active and passive surveillance to detect diseases and adverse health conditions
- Investigate reports of acute diseases and outbreaks, such as norovirus, influenza, meningitis, and STDs
- Recommend appropriate prevention measures, treatment, and control
- Monitor and investigate reports of unusual health conditions
- Conduct data analyses, disseminate information confidentially from surveillance systems, and report all notifiable disease
- Provide guidance for healthcare professionals, facilities, and other agencies and organizations regarding disease prevention and control
- Respond to disease-related inquiries from residents, healthcare providers, and others

Emergency Preparedness

The Northwest Health District Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response works to improve our ability to respond to acts of bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious disease, and other small or large-scale public health emergencies or mass-casualty incidents. In recent years, our preparedness efforts have been tested by a variety of events such as tornadoes, snow storms, disease outbreaks such as H1N1, and assisting out-of-state responses such as Hurricane Katrina.

Regional Healthcare Coalitions

The Georgia Healthcare Preparedness Coalitions help bridge gaps and improve healthcare preparedness and resilience for disasters. County, community, or organizational plans alone may not be sufficient to take care of the health care needs during and after a disaster, therefore a regional approach is needed to improve the continuity of healthcare. The Northwest Health District is a current member and Executive Committee representative in the Region C Healthcare Coalition with support and participation with the Region A and Region N Healthcare Coalitions.

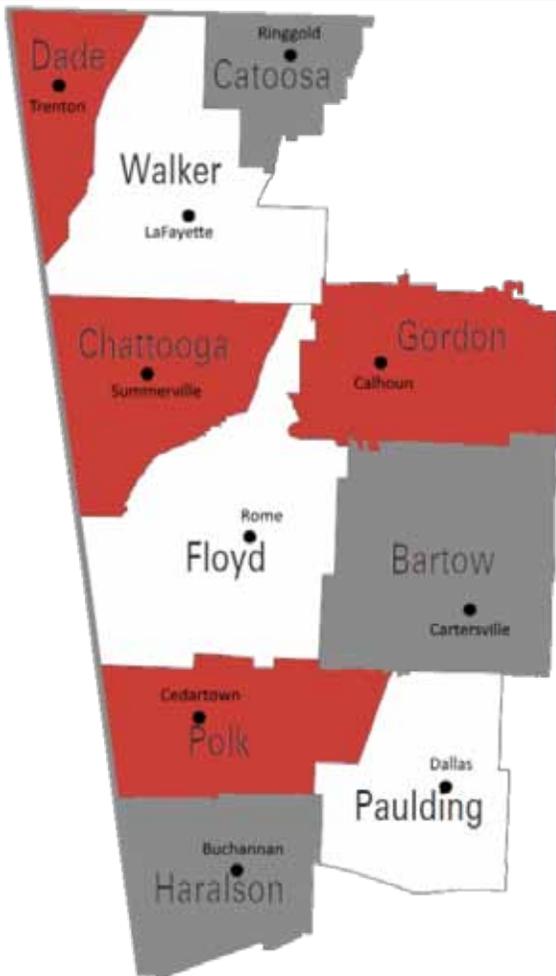
Strategic National Stockpile

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a national supply of medication and medical supplies for emergency situations. In Georgia, Public Health is the coordinating agency for an SNS deployment of any size.

Public Health and Community Preparedness

The Office of Emergency Preparedness continually provides training, planning assistance, and drill/exercise support to all communities and Public Health facilities in the Northwest Health District. This includes guidance and education on personal and family preparedness.





Our community audiences are as diverse as the region of Georgia we call the Northwest Health District.

Breathtaking scenery, deep historical roots embedded in the Cherokee Nation and the Civil War, a strong public health infrastructure with a health department in each county, high-performing schools, top healthcare facilities, and a low cost of living are among the many facets distinguishing the ten-county Georgia Department of Public Health Northwest Health District, headquartered in Rome (Floyd County), the largest city in our district.

Our district encompasses 3,355 square miles and is home to approximately 667,000 people. It's delineated to the north by the Tennessee state line, to the west by the Alabama state line, and to the east and south roughly by Interstates 75 and 20 respectively.

It stretches from Dade County's flat-topped Sand and Lookout Mountains and spectacular Cloudland Canyon, tucked away in the Plateau region of the far northwest corner of the state, to Haralson, Polk, and Paulding counties in the rolling hills and valleys of the Piedmont region. In between, Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, and Walker counties lie in the Ridge-and-Valley region of long, parallel ridges overlooking wide valleys of pasture and farmland.

Northwest Georgia has a rich legacy of textile manufacturing and may be best known for its floor covering industry, but it's also becoming known as home to many Georgia auto-supplier manufacturers and the appliance-manufacturing industry.

These are just a few of the many characteristics of the Northwest Health District and do not present a complete picture; however, these are some of the ones that make our Public Health District unique, as we work together every day to make Northwest Georgia safer and healthier.

Bartow County

Health Department
100 Zena Drive SE
Cartersville, GA 30121-2482
Phone: (770) 382-1920
Fax: (770) 387-3999

Environmental Health Office
Phone: (770)-387-2614
Fax: (770) 383-7435

Catoosa County

Health Department
145 Catoosa Circle
Ringgold, GA 30736
Phone: (706)406-2000
Fax: (706)406-2001
Vital Records
Phone: (706)-406-2022

Environmental Health Office
182 Tiger Trail
Ringgold, GA 30736
Phone: (706) 406-2030
Fax: (706) 935-6740

Chattooga County

Health Department
60 Farrar Drive
Summerville, GA 30747
Phone: (706) 857-3471
Fax: (706) 857-6941

Environmental Health Office
Phone: (706) 857-3377
Fax: (706) 857-6941

Dade County

Health Department
71 Case Avenue, Ste H-100
P.O. Box 446, Trenton, Ga. 30752
Phone: (706) 657-4213
Fax: (706) 657-7813

Environmental Health Office
Phone: (706) 657-4213
Fax: (706) 657-7813

Floyd County

Health Department
16 East 12th Street
Rome, GA 30161
Phone: (706) 295-6123
Fax: (706) 802-5445

Environmental Health Office
Phone: (706) 295-6316
Fax: (706) 802-5467

Gordon County

Health Department
310 N. River Street
Calhoun, GA 30701
Phone: (706) 624-1444
Fax: (706)624-1450

Environmental Health Office
Phone: (706) 624-1440
Fax: (706) 624-1442

Haralson County

Health Department
133 Buchanan Bypass
P.O. Box 40
Buchanan, GA 30113
Phone: (770) 646-5541
Fax: (770) 646-8193

Environmental Health Office
Phone: (770) 646-4301
Fax: (770) 646-8193

Paulding County

Health Department
451 Jimmy Campbell Parkway
Dallas, GA 30132
Clinic: (770) 443-7881
WIC: (770)443-7900
Fax: (770)443-7885

Environmental Health Office
240 Constitution Blvd Suit 1-A
Dallas, GA 30132
Phone: (770) 443-7877
Fax: (770) 443-7879

Polk County

Health Department
125 East Ware Street,
Cedartown, GA 30123
Phone: (770) 749-2270
Fax: (770) 749-2298

Environmental Health Office
Phone: (770) 749-2253
Fax: (770) 749-2298

Walker County

Health Department
603 East Villanow Street
P.O. Box 609
LaFayette, GA 30728
Phone: (706) 638-5577
Fax: (706) 638-5543

Environmental Health Office
101 Napier Street
PO Box 826
LaFayette, GA 30728
Phone: (706) 639-2574
Fax: (706) 639-2576

Northwest Health District Office

1309 Redmond Road
Rome, GA 30165
Phone: (706) 295-6704
Fax: (706) 802-5290

Public Health Districts in GEORGIA

- 1-1 Northwest (Rome)
- 1-2 North Georgia (Dalton)
- 2 North (Gainesville)
- 3-1 Cobb/Douglas
- 3-2 Fulton
- 3-3 Clayton (Morrow)
- 3-4 East Metro (Lawrenceville)
- 3-5 DeKalb
- 4 LaGrange
- 5-1 South Central (Dublin)
- 5-2 North Central (Macon)
- 6 East Central (Augusta)
- 7 West Central (Columbus)
- 8-1 South (Valdosta)
- 8-2 Southwest (Albany)
- 9-1 Coastal (Savannah/Brunswick)
- 9-2 Southeast (Waycross)
- 10 Northeast (Athens)

