

A variety of preventive services are provided to the residents of Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties by public health staff. The programs and services are delivered by screening, intervention, education, preventive action and epidemiology or investigation activities.

Other services are designed to prevent disease or illness from environmental sources such as food, water, solid waste, sewage and vectors. In addition to conducting routine inspections and issuing permits, staff also respond to complaints and provide technical assistance to local residents in a variety of areas where environmental factors may affect the public.

The field of public health is constantly evolving in response to the needs of communities and populations around the world. The underlying mission of public health is to improve the conditions and behaviors that affect health so that all people can attain it. That mission includes not only the practice of public health policy, but the research of public health issues and the education of future leaders who eventually will translate that research into practices and policies to improve the health of people regionally, nationally, and globally.

Public Health:

- Has a real and lasting positive effect on people
- Helps promote a healthy environment
- Is a moral and ethical imperative

Why is public health important?

The work of public health professionals is important because public health initiatives affect people every day in every part of the world. It addresses broad issues that can affect the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, populations, and societies – both now, and for generations to come.

Public health's programs help keep people alive. These programs have led to:

- Increased life expectancies
- Worldwide reductions in infant and child mortality
- Eradication or reduction of many communicable diseases

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