What is Public Health?

Public Health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through organized community efforts.

Collaborating with the community is essential in working to improve the health of Schuyler County residents. We work with the community to help prevent disease and promote health in the county in many ways.

- **Community Health Assessment** process is completed every three years to get a snapshot of how health is in the community, what the community’s needs are, and what resources the county has to address the issues facing the county. As part of this process, we also develop a **Community Health Improvement Plan** to help guide the community in its health goals.

- We also work with **Community Coalitions** to help combat some of the biggest health problems facing the county.

What are Community Coalitions?

HEAL Schuyler

Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) Schuyler is made up of agencies, businesses, and concerned community members who work together to help reduce obesity in Schuyler County.

SCCUDD

Schuyler County Coalition on Underage Drinking and Drugs includes individuals, agencies, and businesses from the community. As part of SCCUDD, we work to prevent, reduce, and delay the onset of substance use among Schuyler County youth by collaborating with our community partners, promoting prevention education and substance-free activities, and implementing environmental strategies.

Schuyler County Public Health

Our mission is to protect and empower our community to be safe, healthy and prepared.

Our vision is a connected community of healthy people and safe places.

Contact Us

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Working hand in hand with the community to prevent, promote and protect.
Our Services

**Healthy Families** is a home-based service offered to all expectant families and new parents in Schuyler County. Families that participate receive in-home support from trained staff who help the family develop a positive parent-child relationship and help promote optimal child and family health, development and safety. The program has also been proven to increase a child’s school readiness, enhance family self-sufficiency and prevent child abuse and neglect. Healthy Families Schuyler is a partnership between Cornell Cooperative Extension and Schuyler County Public Health.

**Baby Café** is a free drop-in center—located at the Montour Falls Library—that offers support and assistance to mothers. Every Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. (excluding federal holidays), mothers can get advice from certified lactation counselors and from other mothers in a relaxed environment.

**Chronic Disease Prevention** works to prevent and manage chronic diseases—such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes—in the community through education, awareness raising, and offering Chronic Disease Self-Management Program classes. Schuyler County Public Health is also involved in HEAL Schuyler and the Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition (STTAC).

**Emergency Preparedness and Response** helps people plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies, natural disasters or acts of terrorism. We rely heavily on both medical and non-medical volunteers from our Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to provide manpower and technical skills during emergency and non-emergency events.

**Watershed Protection Agency** assures the safety of ground and surface water resources in Schuyler County. The Watershed Protection Agency enforces the Local Law regulating individual water and sewer systems to help enhance and preserve the public health of the community and the environment.

**Lead Poisoning Prevention** works to protect children in the community from lead by collaborating with Primary Care providers to increase lead testing rates among young children and pregnant omen, by arranging blood lead testing for children in the county, and by educating the community about the dangers of lead and how to prevent exposure.

**Communicable Disease Control** helps prevent the spread of disease by monitoring the treatment of ill individuals, maintaining regular contact with health care providers and schools, and providing up-to-date information to health care providers, schools, and the community. We also organize Immunization Clinics for people and pets. We are also involved in the Immunization Coalition of the Southern Tier.