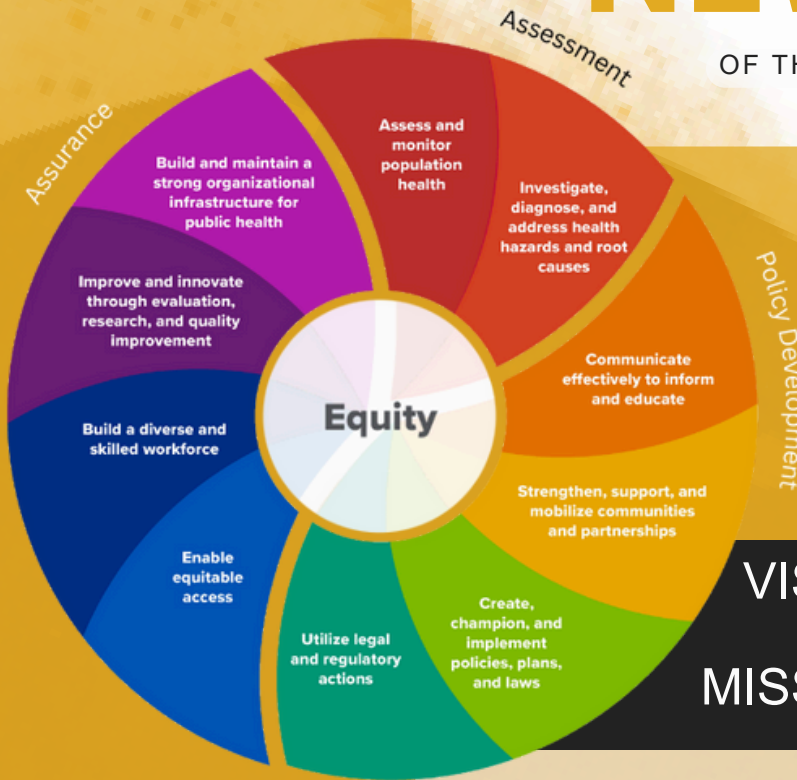


09.2024

PUBLIC HEALTH

# NEWSLETTER

OF THE APPLETON PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



## IN THIS ISSUE:

TB Skin Testing

Community Partner: Outagamie County CERT

Meet Paula

**VISION:** Health for all, together.

**MISSION:** Facilitate equitable community wellbeing through education, health promotion, and response to public health needs.

## 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Each month, the Appleton Health Department Newsletter features stories about how we are achieving each of the 10 Essential Public Health Services. This month, we focus on:

Essential Public Health Service #4 Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health

## APPLETON HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS TB SKIN TESTING

The Appleton Health Department began offering Tuberculosis (TB) Skin Testing in late 2023 as part of a multifaceted approach to eliminate the spread of active tuberculosis disease, to detect Latent Tuberculosis Infection, and provide an affordable and convenient testing option available to local residents.

Our TB skin testing program has been in place for nearly a year and demand for the service has steadily grown. Many workplaces, schools, and other organizations require the completion of a TB skin test prior to starting. Someone can have no signs of illness but be infected with the bacteria that causes TB, Mycobacterium tuberculosis; this is called latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI). A TB skin test is one way to detect LTBI before it may develop into active TB. Only someone who develops active TB disease can spread the bacteria to others so treating the symptomless LTBI is really important to stop the spread of the disease.

This screening is available as a fee for service or without cost for residents with an identified exposure to active TB. Appleton Public Health Nurses administer and interpret the TB skin tests and provide follow-up case management and linkage to a medical healthcare provider when appropriate. Finally, treatment for LTBI may be started in accordance with medication regimens recommended by the WI State TB Program or CDC/American Thoracic Society (ATS) using current guidelines.



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## OUTAGAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)



The City of Appleton utilizes Outagamie County's CERT wonderful volunteer program to support police, firefighters and other emergency responders during periods of extended duress. CERT provides (among many other things) hydration, nutrition, cooling in hot weather, warmth in cold weather, and shelter from the elements.

Departments within the City of Appleton have not only relied on CERT for structure fires and firefighter rehab, but Appleton was able to call on CERT to provide support at the many COVID testing and vaccination clinics, and even sheltering support in recent disasters.

The mission statement of CERT Rehab is to provide quality rehabilitation services along with a safe and secure resting area for all emergency response personnel throughout Outagamie County for extended emergency situations. The Rehab Service is defined as: "providing for the physical and personal needs of the individuals who respond to emergency situations. This includes providing food and fluid replenishment, rest for worn out emergency personnel, and emotional support." Quote from [Outagamie County CERT Facebook](#).

Outagamie County CERT is a completely unique volunteer program in the fact that it is the only one of its kind in the state of Wisconsin. Appleton has been fortunate to access the many benefits the program provides.

## RESOURCES

[CDC-10 Essential Public Health Services -Full](#)

[WI DHS info about TB](#)

[Outagamie County CERT](#)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



## MEET PAULA



**Paula Van De Leygraaf**  
Outagamie County Emergency  
Management Director

Paula started her career with Outagamie County as a 911 dispatcher, where she worked for 10 years. She transitioned into the Emergency Management Office in 2010 and became a Certified Emergency Manager in Wisconsin in 2016. She served as the Deputy Director for Outagamie County Emergency Management for 5 years before being appointed as the Emergency Management Director.

Paula is also the Program Coordinator for the Outagamie County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Paula is certified through FEMA to teach the CERT curriculum to new recruits. Outagamie County CERT, with a current roster of 70 members, is one of the only active CERT team in the State of Wisconsin.

[Find more information about Outagamie County CERT here:](#)



**BOARD OF HEALTH CALENDAR**