



Health Department BAA

**Vermont Department of Health
Commissioner Rick Hildebrant**

January 13, 2026



Leading the Vermont Department of Health



Vision

All people and communities in Vermont have equitable opportunities to achieve their highest level of health and well-being.



Mission

Promote the physical, mental, and social well-being of people in Vermont by advancing equity, protecting against disease and injury, and preparing for health emergencies.



Values

Equity • Collaboration • Inclusion • Harmony • Data



How the Health Department advances public health.



Detect

We use data to understand what works and what can be improved, so everyone has an equal chance at good health and well-being.



Connect

We listen to and work with local organizations, like schools, businesses, and health centers, to support the community's whole health.



Prevent

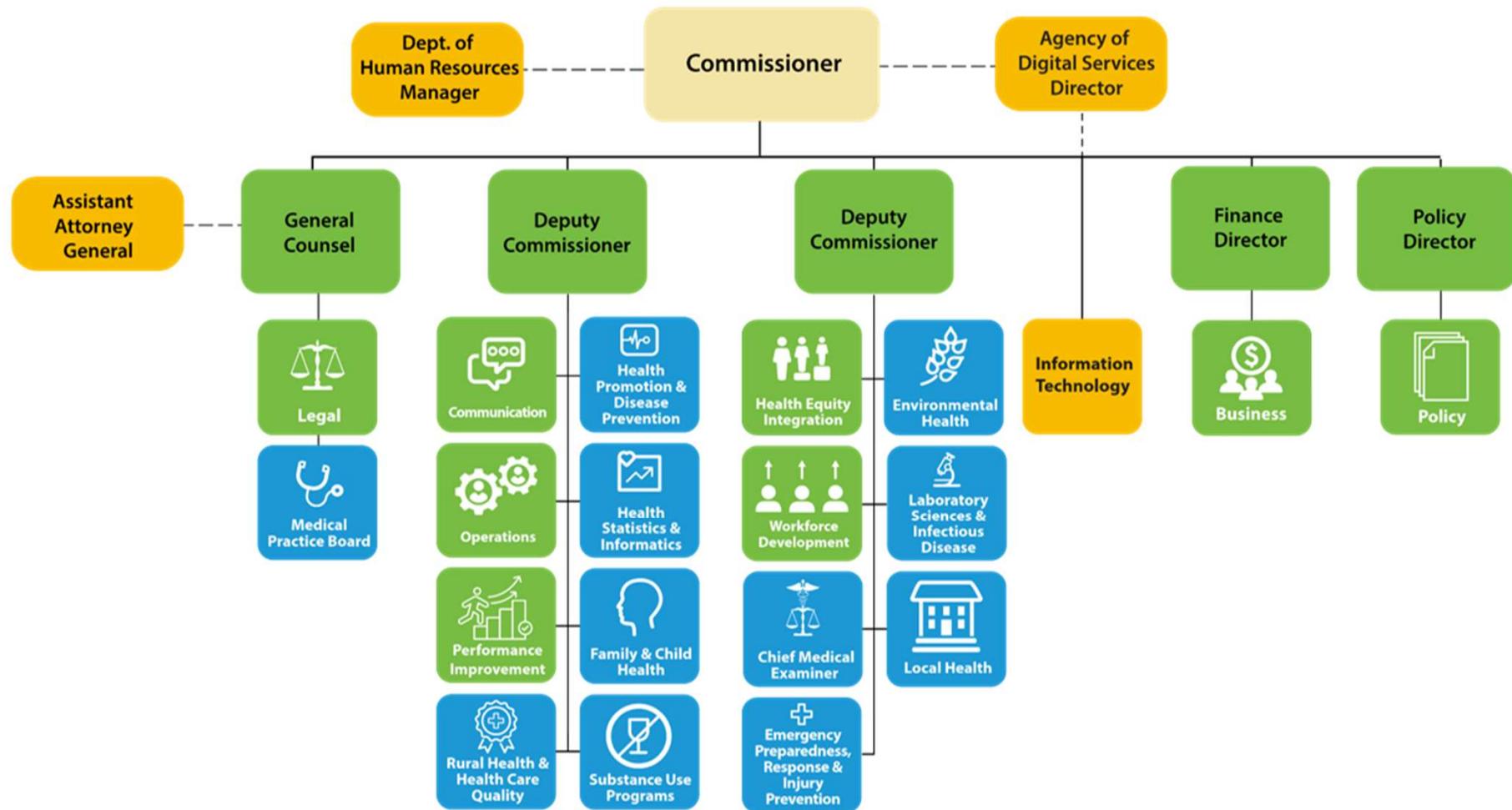
We provide information and resources to prevent illness and injury before they happen and to promote overall health and well-being.



Respond

We are ready to take quick action when public health threats happen, like after a disaster or to stop the spread of infectious diseases.

Health Department Organizational Structure



Preserve Trust in Public Health



Photos from left:
Staff from Newport Local Health Office in their community garden.
Staff from the St. Albans Office of Local Health set up for a dental clinic.
Rutland Local Health Office brought a nutrition activity to Wonderfeet Children's Museum.



Immunizations



Changes at the federal level have caused confusion and disruption.



We have committed to Vermonters to preserve access to and coverage of routine, preventive vaccines.



This will require legislative changes.

Substance use disorder

Vermont is a leader in prevention, treatment and recovery for substance use disorder. However, we must continue to adapt to the changing landscape. That means:

- Responding to an increase in stimulant use/harm
- Ensuring recovery housing is prioritized as part of the bigger picture of housing needs in Vermont.
- Focusing on critical prevention work.

Access to care



Health Care Transformation

Public health will work with health care reform to support health care transformation in Vermont.



Areas of current attention:

Obstetric access
Transportation between care sites (EMS)
Reproductive health care

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Adjustment: Health Department

Administration & Support	General Fund	Federal Fund	Total
Operating Expenses:			
Agency of Digital Services, Service Level Agreement transfer from AHS Central Office (AHS net-neutral)	\$481,657	\$481,657	\$963,314

Public Health	General Fund	Investment GC	Total
Grants:			
Family Planning Service Grant - Planned Parenthood (loss of federal funding due to HR1)	\$300,000	(\$300,000)	\$0

Key takeaways

- 1** We must preserve trust in public health to keep Vermonters safe and healthy.
- 2** The Health Department will prioritize access to immunizations, adapt to changes in substance use, and support health care transformation efforts.
- 3** The BAA request shifts funding sources for critical reproductive health care to ensure continued access.

Thank you!

Let's stay in touch.

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