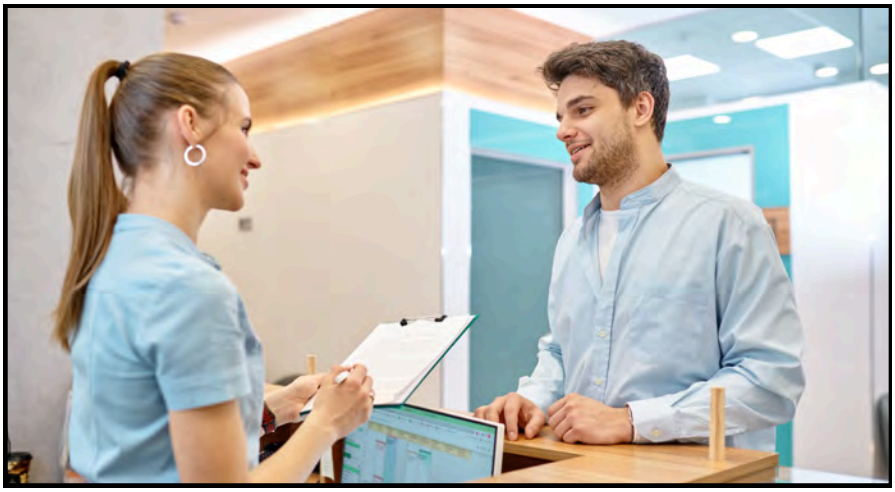
COBB & DOUGLAS PUBLIC HEALTH
Healthier lives. Healthier community.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

March 26, 2025

CDPH Launches New "Express Clinic" at Marietta Public Health Center

To better serve our community and help reduce wait times at our largest clinic, we are excited to announce the opening of our new Express Clinic at the Marietta Health Center. Designed to provide fast, convenient access to essential health services, this new addition aims to streamline the patient experience while maintaining the highest standards of care.



The Express Clinic offers a range of key services, including pregnancy testing, lab titers, rapid Hepatitis C and HIV testing, and STI testing, which includes Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and HIV. These services are designed to be quick, simple and efficient, allowing you to receive the care you need without the long wait.

Our goal is to make your visit as fast and easy as possible while delivering top-quality care. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a returning patient, we are committed to providing you with the best care in a time-conscious setting.

Walk-ins are welcome, and for more information or to schedule an appointment, call 770-514-2300 or Make an Appointment.

Stay tuned for more services to be added soon!

CDPH Launches Septic System Pumping and Repair Project for Low Income Cobb and Douglas County Homeowners

Cobb & Douglas Public Health, through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants from Cobb County Government and Douglas County Government, will provide funding to income-eligible primary Cobb and Douglas homeowners to get their septic tanks pumped, repaired or connected to local sewer systems.

In an effort to promote environmental health and support community well-being, Cobb & Douglas Public Health is excited to announce the launch of a new Septic System Pump/Repair Project for low-income primary Cobb and Douglas homeowners. This project aims to support regular septic tank maintenance, or repair if needed, thereby preventing system failures, protecting water quality, and ensuring a cleaner, healthier environment for all. Rental and commercial properties are not eligible to participate. For this project, low-income is defined as a household income at or below 185% of the current year's Federal Poverty Level as adjusted for the specified household size. For example, a qualifying income for a household of four in 2024 would be $57,720 or less.

Income-eligible primary homeowners who participate in the project will receive a subsidy of up to $500 (based on actual cost of service), paid directly to the certified service provider, to complete their septic tank pumping. Upon inspection, if repairs are needed, the project will subsidize up to $15,000 to repair the system or connect the home to local sewer. The project collaborates with certified local service providers to ensure that all septic tank pumping and septic system repair services meet all state and local requirements. Eligible services must occur between March 26, 2025 – Dec. 31, 2025 for Douglas and Sept. 30, 2026, for Cobb, or until grant funds are exhausted.

Homeowners interested in the Septic System Pump/Repair Project can enroll by following these simple steps:
1)Visit the Septic Project web page to complete the application.
(2) Once income eligibility is verified, an Environmental Health Specialist will contact the homeowner to schedule a visit to determine what service is needed and to review contractor options.

Proper septic tank maintenance is essential for the efficient operation of septic systems and managing household wastewater. Without regular pumping (recommended every 3-5 years), septic systems can malfunction, leading to costly repairs and environmental hazards. These malfunctions can create health risks for the family, their neighbors and the overall community.

For more information about the Low-Income Septic System Pump/Repair Project, visit the Septic Project web page, email us at cdph.environmentalhealth@dph.ga.gov or call 770-435-7815.

Spotlight on: CDPH Pregnancy Services

At CDPH, we offer Pregnancy Services to help increase the accessibility to prenatal care. We can help women get started early, with the care and guidance needed for a healthy pregnancy.

Prenatal Screening & Referrals

- Clients are assessed and screened for services.
- Application assistance for Presumptive Eligibility Pregnancy Medicaid
- Referrals for Babies Born Healthy

Pregnancy Testing

- Walk-in service or schedule an appointment
- Prenatal counseling and referral follow-up pregnancy services
- Cost: $20 or sliding fee if Family Planning patient

Presumptive Eligibility Pregnancy Medicaid

- This type of Medicaid provides immediate financial assistance for prenatal care. *Note: Prenatal women must meet eligibility requirements.*

Perinatal Case Management

- Must be Medicaid eligible.
- A short visit with the nurse who provides counseling and education on pregnancy, resources and referrals to public and community programs such as WIC.

For more details, call the Marietta Public Health Center at 770-514-2367 (Spanish) or 770-514-2471 (English) or call the Douglas Public Health Center at 770-949-1970 (ext. 2351).

Cobb & Douglas Public Health Receives GFOA's 'Distinguished Budget Presentation' Award for FY2025 Budget

Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) is pleased to announce that the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has honored the Cobb County Board of Health with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its FY2025 budget.

The award reflects the commitment of CDPH to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, they had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a communications device
- an operations guide
- a financial plan

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

There are over 1,700 participants in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website.

Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

About Government Finance Officers Association:

Government Finance Officers Association advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 22,500 members and the communities they serve. Learn more at www.GFOA.org.

Flu Continues to Remain at Elevated Level in Cobb and Douglas Counties

Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) urges residents to get their flu vaccine as flu activity continues to be elevated both in Georgia and nationally.

Influenza (Flu) can be a serious disease that could lead to hospitalization and sometimes death.

Regardless of race, age, gender or ethnicity, anyone can get sick from the flu. Those especially at risk are adults 65 years of age and older, children younger than 5, pregnant women, and people with certain chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease or other long-term medical conditions.

"Preventative actions such as covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and frequently washing your hands can help guard you from the flu." said Priti Kolhe, Director of Immunizations at CDPH. "However, the best way to protect against influenza is to receive an annual flu vaccine."

Flu symptoms and their intensity can vary from person to person, and can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. If you think you have the flu, call or visit your doctor.

For more information about the flu or getting your vaccine, please visit the CDPH website or call 770-514-2300.

To view the Georgia Department of Public Health's Respiratory Illness Reports, visit DPH Reports.

CDPH Outreach Services Make Getting Vaccines Convenient and Easy!

Through the Outreach Services Program, CDPH offers a wide-range of cost-effective health services for both adults and children.

The Outreach Team travels to various locations in Cobb and Douglas counties to provide various vaccines, as well as biometric screenings, hearing/vision/dental and nutrition screenings, health education, homebound visits and wellness checks. We also offer an extensive referral network to guide clients to any additional medical or social service needed.

For more information, visit our website or call 770-514-2300.