



## FACT SHEET

The Florida Department of Health

# Bureau of Environmental Health

### Our Role

The Bureau of Environmental Health protects Floridians and the state's visitors from health risks found in natural and built environments. Statewide, the Bureau administers a variety of programs designed to promote health and prevent illness. To effectively address local needs, each of Florida's 67 county health departments has an Environmental Health (EH) section staffed with experienced environmental health experts.

### Our Priorities

- Addressing the environmental aspects of infectious diseases
- Consulting on the long-term health impacts of environmental exposures
- Ensuring safe drinking water
- Preventing food borne illness
- Ensuring basic sanitation and safety services at many institutional facilities
- Supporting environmental health expertise for healthy built environments
- Promoting safe disposal and treatment of biomedical waste
- Promoting sanitary tattooing and body piercing
- Promoting good food safety and sanitation practices

### Our Programs

#### Bureau Office, 850.245.4250

Strategic Planning; Statewide Training; Disaster Response and Recovery; and Surveillance. *Key preparedness partner in protecting Florida from threats to its land, food, air and water.*

#### Facilities Section

Food Safety and Sanitation; Group Care Facilities; Migrant Housing; Biomedical Waste; Tanning; Tattoos and Body Piercing; Mobile Home Parks; EH Minority Internship Program; and Certification of EH Professionals.

#### Onsite Sewage Programs Section

Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems; Septic Tank Contractor Licensing and Enforcement; Engineering; Research; and Product Review.

#### Public Health Toxicology Section

Hazardous Waste Site Assessments; Emergency Response Preparedness; Aquatic Toxins; Radon and Indoor Air Quality; and Fish Advisories.

#### Water Programs Section

Safe Drinking Water Systems; Public Swimming Pools and Bathing Places; Healthy Marine Beaches; and Potable Well Monitoring.

### Our Impact

- We provide oversight to more than **43,000 biomedical waste facilities** in Florida. In addition to these facilities, we monitor approximately **230 biomedical waste transporters**, and **20 biomedical waste treatment facilities**, which render the waste noninfectious.
- We secure more than **\$2 million yearly in federal grants** to support environmental public health programs and services statewide.
- We inspect more than **37,000 public swimming pools** twice a year for safety and sanitation.
- We monitor water quality for **254 Florida beach sites** for 15 million swimmers throughout the entire year.
- We monitor **55% of Florida's drinking water**.
- We investigate the public health risks of up to **20 hazardous waste sites** in Florida each year.
- We oversee **2.6 million onsite wastewater systems** serving 30% of Florida's population.
- We ensure migrant farm worker housing is constructed and maintained in a **safe and sanitary** manner in Florida.
- The Bureau maintains an innovative inventory of **Florida's 9-million parcels** showing drinking water source and wastewater disposal method for every built property in the state.

### Our Reputation

- Onsite sewage research projects managed by the onsite sewage section have gained **national recognition**.
- We have staff serving on **national councils and work groups** at the U.S. EPA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- The Bureau provides **training** to county health department staff, industry, and the public in a variety of venues across the state and nation.
- The Bureau provides **certification** of radon measurement and mitigation businesses, specialists, and technicians.
- We manage the only statewide **free private well water quality testing program** in the U.S for spilled and leaked manmade chemicals.
- We provide advice and expertise to Floridians with **indoor air concerns** such as radon, mold, carbon monoxide, imported drywall, and formaldehyde.

**More information on environmental health services is just a computer click or a phone call away. Visit us at [www.MyFloridaEH.com](http://www.MyFloridaEH.com) or contact us today at 850.245.4250.**

Florida Health Office of Communications 1/08/18

