



#HealthierMO

Transforming the Future of Public Health in Missouri

Public Health Intervention

Public health workers investigating a sanitation complaint about an extended stay hotel in Missouri found deplorable conditions – cockroaches, bed bugs, dead mice and other pests, torn and stained mattresses and bed linens, and mold on the walls and in bathrooms. Rooms were overcrowded, some with up to 6 occupants. Other rooms were so full of contents the workers couldn't even enter them. The hotel was missing fire extinguishers and had smoke detectors that did not work. There were broken steps in the stairwell, broken glass in the windows, and loose or faulty electrical wiring in several of the rooms.

Public health staff closed the facility and helped relocate all the guests. They provided the owner with information on pest control, mold abatement, and lodging code requirements. He committed to make changes, and reinspections of the facility show progress in his efforts to clean and repair the facility in order to reopen it.

The US Department of Health and Human Services encourages cross-discipline collaboration in order to ensure the conditions in which everyone can be healthy. A successful public health system depends on strong leadership from public health departments, a trained public health workforce, and consistent quality performance standards.

Because trained public health staff in this story worked to ensure the conditions in which everyone could be healthy, guests were protected, and future guests will be assured a safer, healthier place to stay.

The #HealthierMO initiative also seeks to ensure the conditions in which everyone can be healthy, by transforming the public health system in Missouri and offering every Missouri resident the opportunity for a healthier life. To learn more about the initiative, or to share your public health impact story, visit HealthierMO.org or Facebook [@HealthierMO](https://www.facebook.com/HealthierMO).

The Missouri Public Health Association is leading the #HealthierMO initiative in partnership with Support KC. Funding for the first phase of this multi-year initiative was provided by the Missouri Foundation for Health and the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. To learn more, visit www.HealthierMO.org.