

Leon H. Hetherington, M.D., Chief, Bureau of Tuberculosis  
Robert M. Brown, M.P.H., Chief, Bureau of Environmental  
Hygiene  
Claude C. Dodson, M.D., Chief, Bureau of Medical Services  
and Hospitals

301 W. Preston Street, Baltimore 21201

Telephone: 837-9000

The State Department of Health, established by Chapter 200, Acts of 1874, is governed by the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Department is directed by a Commissioner, who is appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene. He must be an experienced physician skilled in public health and certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine. He is responsible for organizing the Department and carrying out its responsibilities and functions. The Department serves the State through the Baltimore City Health Department, and twenty-three county health departments, each of which is in the charge of a health officer who serves as the Deputy State Health Officer for his county.

The State Department of Health protects the public health through the elimination of environmental hazards, the promotion of individual preventive health supervision (especially in expectant mothers, infants, preschool children and school children), and by the active control of communicable diseases; through the administration of a hospital program for the tuberculous and the chronically ill, a medical care and a hospital inpatient and outpatient program for the indigent and the medically indigent, and a medical and hospital care program for crippled children; and through assistance to local health departments and cooperation with State and Federal agencies, with the medical, dental and other health professions, with private health associations, and with citizens groups in carrying out a wide variety of public health programs.

To carry out these duties, the Department is organized into an executive office and six bureaus.

#### **Executive Office**

The Executive Office includes the offices of the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner together with the following specialized staff services: Division of Statistical Research and Records, including the keeping of vital records and statistics, Social Services, Legal Services, Health Mobilization Services, Public Health Nursing, Public Health Education, and Local Health Services.

Local Health Services make public health service available to residents of Maryland through the twenty-four local health departments. These local health officers with their staffs of nurses, sanitarians, and others are the backbone of public health services in Maryland. These local units operate the public health programs in each county and Baltimore City, including public health nursing, pre- and post-hospitalization services, sanitation, mental health, dental health, maternal and child health, tuberculosis, venereal, and other communicable disease control, services for crippled children, and medical care for the indigent and medically indigent including the aged. The State Department of Health is responsible for providing consultatory services for local health work.

#### **Bureau of Management**

The Bureau of Management has the responsibility of providing the day-to-day personnel, payroll, accounting, budgeting, transportation, and other administrative services.