

LABORATORIES ADMINISTRATION

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The Laboratories Administration has broad responsibilities for making a wide variety of laboratory tests to assist physicians and health officials in the prevention, diagnosis, and control of human diseases. The Administration makes examinations in connection with the enforcement of the State's health laws, and the chemical, microbiological, and radiological surveillance of the environment related to foods, waters, sewage, air, pharmaceuticals, bedding, and upholstery. It also licenses, if in compliance with minimum standards and qualifications, all blood banks and clinical laboratories, certifies laboratories that examine water and dairy products involved in shipments out of Maryland, and periodically inspects all such laboratories to assure compliance.

In addition to the Central Laboratory in Baltimore, there are eight branch laboratories throughout the State.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE ADMINISTRATION

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The Preventive Medicine Administration provides technical and professional assistance and consultation, as well as some direct services, to other Administrations under the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and to the subdivisions of the State, primarily local health departments. The Preventive Medicine Administration is responsible for many diversified activities. The general Maternal and Child Health Program is concerned with maternal health and population dynamics (family planning), infant, child, and adolescent health, day care services, and provision of services for heritable disorders. Crippled Children's Services stresses early diagnosis and treatment to prevent costly handicapping disabilities, thus promoting the fullest potential of each child. Communicable Disease and Epidemiology provides immunization programs against childhood and some adult epidemic diseases, including influenza and venereal disease control services. Dental Health Services promotes the prevention of dental disorders and the correc-

tion of dental defects resulting from failure or neglect of preventive measures. Veterinary Medicine is concerned with the control of animal conditions that adversely affect public health, including inspection and licensing of kennels and pet shops. The staff is representative of many professions and includes physicians qualified in the specialties of pediatrics, obstetrics, and epidemiology; public health nurses with special preparation and training in obstetrics and pediatrics; and dentists, psychologists, nutritionists, public health veterinarians, social workers, physical therapists, speech pathologists, audiologists, occupational therapists, public health investigators, and health educators.

AGED AND CHRONICALLY ILL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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This Administration is responsible for a group of programs whose purpose is (1) to prevent the onset or avert the occurrence of disease, (2) to detect disease at a sufficiently early stage to permit intervention in order to arrest or decelerate the rate of progression of the disease, and (3) to contain (prevent or reduce) complications, sequelae, disability, and premature mortality, i.e., primary and secondary chronic disease preventive measures for the adult and aging populations in the State.

The Division of Hypertension and Cardiovascular Disease Control assists local health departments with financial and technical assistance and the training of personnel to establish high blood pressure programs.

The Cancer Control Program plans, promotes, and conducts cancer control activities; participates in gathering information as a basis for planning and investigating the causes of cancer; and provides public and professional education and information related to the control of cancer.

The Division of Respiratory Diseases has responsibility for tuberculosis and certain other chronic respiratory diseases through the maintenance and development of effective surveillance and containment measures.

The goal of the Division of Services to the Aging is to enable impaired older persons to maintain themselves or to be maintained at the highest possible level of independence in the community and to promote the provision of appropriate institutional long-term care for those persons who must receive it. The Division includes Community Based