



**PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

Memorandum for: Louisville Metro Board of Health

From: Jeffery Howard, Interim Director & Chief Health Strategist and Medical Director

Subject: April Director's Report - Trends and Insights from 2/23/23 - 4/7/23

- **Data and research publications.**
 - Policy brief demonstrating the benefits the new Kentucky law [decriminalizing fentanyl test strips](#) can have on health by helping expand the availability of the lifesaving tool, which can reduce overdoses and save lives. Research shows that empowering individuals with the resources and ability to test drugs for the presence of fentanyl is one low-cost and effective harm reduction method that many states across the country have utilized.
 - Research report outlining training and policy recommendations to address the [experiences of Community Health Workers](#) (CHWs), and subsequently the lives and health needs of CHW clients. The information also illuminates the resource limitations and difficulties CHWs face when referring clients to services.
- **2023 Kentucky legislative session – preliminary impacts related to LMPHW operations**
 - [HB353 AN ACT relating to crimes and punishments](#) exempts fentanyl test strips from being considered drug paraphernalia.
 - [SB111 AN ACT relating to health care](#) amends certification requirements to serve as the director of health and expands eligibility to non-physicians.
 - [SB52 AN ACT relating to the collection of fees in a county containing a consolidated local government](#) simplifies the fee collection process locally.
- **Public health emergency is ending.** The Governor's public health emergency (PHE) and the COVID-19 national emergency and PHE, initiated during the pandemic, end on May 11, 2023. While continued response to COVID-19 is not fully dependent on the PHE, there are numerous [health-related implications](#) for the communities we serve, especially related to [Medicaid](#).



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