School of Public Health and Information Sciences

About

The School of Public Health and Information Sciences (SPHIS) officially reopened as a University of Louisville unit in September 2002. In December 2008, the school moved to its newly renovated home on East Gray Street across from the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness.

The original School of Public Health at University of Louisville was formed in 1919, making it one of the first schools of public health in the United States. Funding for the development of the school came from a $30,000 contribution by the Kentucky State Board of Health. The school was housed on the third floor of the Kentucky Board of Health Building at the corner of 6th and Main Streets. The primary focus of the school was the training of health officers and public health nurses to deal with welfare work in poor communities. The school was deactivated in 1924.

The School of Public Health and Information Sciences is a distinctive school of public health, positioned to protect the public’s health in the 21st century by identifying emerging health threats and risks, monitoring health factors and status, understanding how people seek and respond to health information and preparing responses to events that can affect the public’s health.

While we embrace the traditional tasks and roles of public health specialists, we recognize that protecting the public’s health today requires much more. It requires a new approach that integrates how information about the public’s health is acquired, evaluated, acted on and disseminated, and how these affect the public and its health. It requires preparing our students for careers in the 21st century by using 21st century knowledge and techniques.