



Journal of Public Health in the Deep South
Call for Submissions for a Special Issue

*Integrating Population and Public Health in Healthcare-related Curricula:
Bridging Levels of Care from Individual and Beyond*

Submission Deadline: December 15, 2026

About the *Journal*

The Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA), in partnership with Mississippi State University (MSU), initiated the *Journal of Public Health in the Deep South* (JPHDS) in 2018. The JPHDS is a peer-reviewed, open-access, online journal focused on disseminating high-quality research and/or effective applied techniques to academicians, educators, and practitioners. The JPHDS is the first publication to specifically focus on public health issues in this geographical space and with an appeal to both research and applied public health and healthcare professionals and educators with emphases on research, practice, and teaching. The JPHDS is the official journal of MPHA and is hosted by MSU.

Special Issue Focus

Learning population and public health principles as part of healthcare-related curricula is vital because it broadens healthcare professionals' understanding beyond individual patient care. This enables them to address health challenges at the population level. While traditional education for healthcare professionals focuses on diagnosing and treating illnesses in individual patients, public health education equips professionals with tools to prevent diseases, promote wellness, and combat health disparities on a larger scale. This knowledge is crucial in tackling epidemics, chronic diseases, environmental health threats and other issues, which require coordinated interventions and policy-driven solutions. Educated in population and public health, healthcare professionals are better prepared to integrate preventive care into their practice, fostering healthier communities and reducing the burden on healthcare systems. Moreover, education in population and public health enhances interprofessional collaboration, a cornerstone of modern healthcare.

Specifically, healthcare professionals who understand population and public health principles are well-equipped to collaborate with epidemiologists, policymakers, and community leaders to create effective health programs and policies. This interprofessional approach is essential for addressing complex health issues such as access to care, vaccination programs, chronic disease prevention, and mental health

support. By integrating clinical expertise with population and public health strategies, healthcare professionals can inform policy decisions, contribute to or lead community health initiatives, and advocate for systems change, ultimately advancing the well-being of entire populations while improving individual health outcomes.

This issue of the JPHDS will focus on research or scientific manuscripts, research briefs, review articles, commentaries, case reports, multimedia content, practice and pedagogy articles, study protocols that further elucidate research and best and promising practices related to how population and public health concepts and principles are integrated into healthcare-related, discipline-specific education such as medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, pharmacy, social work, nutrition and dietetics, and others.

Submissions are welcomed from a variety of education programs at high schools (health science CTE programs), community colleges, universities, academic health centers, religious-based higher education, land grant universities, organizations that support higher education efforts, and others.

Articles for this special issue can include:

- Research manuscripts (full or brief)
- Review articles
- Commentaries and editorials
- Case reports
- Multimedia content
- Practice and pedagogy articles
- Study protocols

Submission Process

For author guidelines, please see this link:

[Journal of Public Health in the Deep South: Final Manuscript Preparation Guidelines](#)

The link for author submissions will be distributed during the fall of 2026.

Please indicate in your cover letter that your submission is intended for the special issue on "Integrating Public and Population Health in Healthcare-related Curricula."

Timeline

A recorded webinar with helpful information on the journal, submission guidelines, and other tips can be found at <https://www.mspha.org/journal/>.

The issue portal will be opened in the fall of 2026, with manuscripts due December 15, 2026.

The special issue is expected to be finalized in time for publication in late Spring 2027.