

# Public health nurse

Public health nurses are qualified and registered nurses or midwives who have then chosen to gain experience or undertake training to specialise in areas such as health protection or sexual health.

## Working life

Their additional training in public health means that public health nurses play a vital role in promoting and protecting the public's health. This might be by promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing the likelihood of ill-health, supporting people who have long-term illness, or preventing illness through immunisations or screening interventions. They are employed in a variety of settings including the [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities](#) <sup>[1]</sup>, local authorities and the NHS.

Can't see the video? You'll need to accept all [cookies](#) <sup>[2]</sup>. Alternatively, visit our YouTube Channel to view our [videos](#) <sup>[3]</sup>

[Download transcript](#) <sup>[4]</sup>

## Public health nurse roles

The following list doesn't include all of the roles available for public health nurses, but provides examples of the types of roles available.

- [Health promotion nurse](#)
- [Health protection nurse](#)
- [Tuberculosis \(TB\) nurse](#)
- [Infection control nurse](#)

### Health promotion nurse

Health promotion nurses work with groups in the community and organisations (primary healthcare teams, voluntary and statutory organisations) to identify the health needs of the community and the most appropriate ways of intervening to improve their health. They plan their interventions on a firm evidence-base and then work with their clients in a variety of community settings to meet their needs. Such interventions may include, for example:

- physical activity
- tackling obesity
- promoting self-care for people with long-term conditions
- finding and supporting those most at risk of cardiovascular <sup>[5]</sup> disease

They also provide information and support to promote and optimise positive health.

The managerial aspects of their role include:

- maintaining good working relationships with partners, colleagues and partner organisations
- completing statistical returns and entering client data onto computer systems
- identifying areas for improving the service
- responding to complaints

Health promotion nurses also have an educational role, helping to support, mentor and train junior staff, participating in clinical supervision, annual staff appraisal, and auditing to ensure maintenance of standards.

## **Health protection nurse**

Health protection teams are responsible for ensuring that the public are protected from infectious diseases and other non-infectious hazards to health. Nurses working in this field have a crucial role to play in this interesting and varied area. They work with individuals, families and the wider population, which may include taking decisions on behalf of a community or population. The health protection nurse works with a wide range of organisations, disciplines and agencies to undertake disease surveillance, contribute to the management of incidents, outbreaks and control strategies, as well as leading or supporting the implementation of new directives, guidance and policy to protect the public's health.

The day-to-day role of the health protection nurse may include:

- providing reactive health protection advice, as part of an acute response team, to health professionals, the public or wider stakeholders, following the notification of communicable diseases or other health threats.
- undertaking epidemiological investigations and public health risk assessments.
- working with other stakeholders to prevent or minimise the impact of non-infectious environmental hazards
- emergency planning, working with local resilience fora, undertaking community risk assessments and supporting the planning for biological, chemical, radioactive, environmental and nuclear threats to the public's health.
- public health training, education, and participating in research and audit.

## **Tuberculosis (TB) nurse**

Tuberculosis nurses work in the community or within health protection teams to provide care and support for people being investigated or treated for tuberculosis (TB). They may be involved, with their team, in managing an outbreak. They also visit people at home, ensuring they receive the support that they, as individuals with different needs, require to complete their course of treatment. They provide their clients and other health professionals with information

and advice about TB. To help contain the spread of TB, these nurses work to establish who has been in contact with infected clients so they can be traced and offered a check-up and, if necessary, treatment.

## Infection control nurse

Infection control nurses establish and maintain effective and efficient systems for the prevention, investigation, control and surveillance of infections in the workplace. Infection control nurses need to provide strong leadership that inspires and motivates others to ensure all infection control policy and procedures are implemented. He or she would normally have the authority, through specialist knowledge, to advise on agreed standards of infection prevention and to control care service delivery to patients, their carers and all hospital staff.

## Sarah Murphy

### TB nurse specialist (public health)

It is exciting to work on an innovative project and to see fantastic results so quickly. By offering on-site screening, we've greatly increased the number of people who take up the offer of screening.

[Read Sarah's story](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

---

## Pay and benefits

In the NHS, your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours on a shift pattern which can include nights, early starts, evenings, weekends and bank holidays. As an adult nurse, you'll be paid on the Agenda for Change (AFC <sup>[7]</sup>) pay system, typically starting at band 5.

You'll also have access to the generous NHS Pension Scheme and health service discounts, as well as 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

Pay and benefits will differ if working outside of the NHS.

## Entry requirements

You must first qualify and register as a [nurse](#) <sup>[8]</sup> or [midwife](#) <sup>[9]</sup>. Entry requirements may then vary depending on the position.

Experience or a qualification (or both) in one of the following areas may be an advantage:

- community nursing
- school nursing
- staff nurse in health visiting team
- work in A&E or walk-in centre settings
- counselling and psychological help
- occupational health

- infection prevention and control
- health protection
- practice nursing

There are other educational options and courses for those working in infectious disease, health protection, infection control, sexual health, drug and alcohol, smoking cessation and other areas.

## ?Skills needed

- excellent communication skills
- project management
- analytical skills
- influencing and negotiating skills
- ability to work across multi-agency or multi-disciplinary professional networks
- good people skills in order to develop and sustain relationships
- problem-solving skill
- an ability to respond to sudden unexpected demands
- an enthusiasm and genuine interest in health protection

## Where the role can lead

As a public health nurse there are many opportunities to develop skills to work in a variety of areas. Some public health nurses choose to follow an academic career pathway, working in higher education or research, whereas others may decide to take up senior practitioner or managerial roles.

### • Live vacancies

## Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

### ○ Public Health Nurse

Liverpool, L9 7LH

Salary:

£33232.00 to £40211.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

- **Public Health Nurse**

Woodbridge, IP12 3JW

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

- **Specialist Public Health Nurse - Health Visitor**

Leeds, LS11 0DL

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Public Health Nurse - Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

- **Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (Health Visitor)**

Aylesford, ME20 7NJ

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Community Public Health Nurse \(Health Visitor\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

- **Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (Health Visitor)**

Kent wide, TN25 4AZ

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Community Public Health Nurse \(Health Visitor\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

- **Public Health Nurse Health Visiting/School Nursing**

Houghton Regis, LU5 5ES

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Nurse Health Visiting/School Nursing job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

- **Health Visitor, Specialist Community Public Health Nurse**

Harrow, HA1 3DJ

Salary:

£42939.00 to £50697.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor, Specialist Community Public Health Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

- **Public Health Advisor/Nursery Nurse**

Norton Canes, WS11 9SE

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Advisor/Nursery Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

- **Specialist Community Public Health Nurse**

Margate, CT9 3RU

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Community Public Health Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

- **Public Health Staff Nurse - Health Visiting Team (PHN)**

Exeter, EX2 4QD

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Devon County Council

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Staff Nurse - Health Visiting Team \(PHN\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

- **Specialist Community Public Health Nurse Student**

Portsmouth, PO1 2GJ

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Community Public Health Nurse Student job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

- **Community Public Health Nurse- School Nurse**

Stoke on Trent, ST33BS

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Community Public Health Nurse- School Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

- **Public Health Nursing Infant Feeding Lead**

Bromley, BR60JA

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bromley Healthcare CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Public Health Nursing Infant Feeding Lead job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) Health Visitor (HV)**

Torquay, TQ1 3QH

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Community Public Health Nurse \(SCPHN\) Health Visitor \(HV\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[23]</sup>

- **Specialist Community Public Health School Nurse - (SCPHN)**

Salford, M6 5FW

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Community Public Health School Nurse - \(SCPHN\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[24]</sup>

- **CYP Public Health Nursery Nurse 0-11yrs**

Ferndown, BH22 8XH

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for CYP Public Health Nursery Nurse 0-11yrs job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[25]</sup>



- **Specialist Community Public Health Nurse - School Nursing**

Leicester, LE2 9PT

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Community Public Health Nurse - School Nursing job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[26]</sup>

- **Community Public Health Nurse (5-19 Service)**

New Mills, SK22 4BP

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Derbyshire Community Health Services NHSFT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Community Public Health Nurse \(5-19 Service\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Child Health Screener- School Health**

London, E16 2QU

Salary:

£31524.00 to £32931.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

London Borough of Newham

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Child Health Screener- School Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[28]</sup>

- **Occupational Health Nurse - Occupational Health**

London, SE1 7NJ

Salary:

£44806.00 to £53134.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Occupational Health Nurse - Occupational Health job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **Sexual Health Nurse/Health Advisor (Development Role)**

Redditch, B98 7UB

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Sexual Health Nurse/Health Advisor \(Development Role\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[30]</sup>

- **Health Educator**

Cambridge Bio Medical Campus, CB2 0AY

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Educator job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[31]</sup>

- **Health Visitor**

Aldershot, GU11 1AY

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[32]</sup>

- **Health Visitor**

Halifax, HX1 1SP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Locala Health and Wellbeing

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [33]

- **Health Visitor**

Chesterfield, S43 1JD

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Derbyshire Community Health Services NHSFT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [34]

- **Health Visitor**

Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9DR

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [35]

- **Health Visitor**

Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BT

Salary:

£22403.00 to £26977.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset County Council

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [36]

- **Health Visitor**

Plymouth, PL4 7PY

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Livewell Southwest

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [37]

- **Health Visitor**

Gravesend, DA11 0DG

Salary:

£39205.00 to £47084.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

- **Health Visitor**

Bolton, BL3 5HP

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[39]</sup>

- **Health Visitor**

Manchester, M22 4PJ

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

- **Health Visitor**

Blaenau, Gwent, NP13 3BN

Salary:

£37898.00 to £45637.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[41]</sup>

- **Health Visitor**

Bedford, MK42 7PN

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[42]</sup>

- **Health Visitor**

Herefordshire, HR2 9RP

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[43]</sup>

- **Health Visitor**

Treorchy, CF42 6ED

Salary:

£37898.00 to £45637.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[44]</sup>

- **SCPHN Health Visitor**

Nottingham, NG6 8WR

Salary:

£39405.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nottingham CityCare Partnership CIC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for SCPHN Health Visitor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[45]</sup>

- **Health Visitor - Woking**

Woking, GU21 5SB

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

HCRG Care Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor - Woking job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[46]

- **Trainee Health Screener**

Coventry, CV14FS

Salary:

£23809.50

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

InHealth Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trainee Health Screener job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[47]

- **Health Visitor - Spelthorne**

Chertsey, KT16 8LA

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

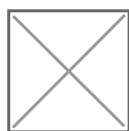
HCRG Care Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Health Visitor - Spelthorne job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [48]

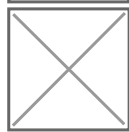
## Other roles that may interest you

- [Adult nurse](#) [49]
- [Occupational health nurse](#) [50]
- [Learning disability nurse](#) [51]
- [Mental health nurse](#) [52]

## Partner logos



[53]



[53]

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/public-health-nurse>

### Links

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-health-improvement-and-disparities> [2]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/privacy-and-cookies/#CookieDeclarationChangeConsentChange> [3]  
<https://www.youtube.com/NHSCareers> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/resources/transcript-nigel-fletcher> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Cardiovascular> [6]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/public-health-nurse/real-life-story-sarah-murphy> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#AfC> [8]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/Midwifery/Midwife> [10] <https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0314-25-3070> [11]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0314-25-3081> [12]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9833-580-25> [13]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9846-25-0418> [14]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9846-25-0453> [15]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9448-25-0185> [16]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9333-25-0815> [17]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9301-25-0822> [18]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9846-25-0416> [19]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/F0011-25-7999> [20]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9348-25-1530> [21]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9301-25-0826> [22]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B9848-25-0141> [23]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9388-25-0820> [24]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9236-25-1191> [25]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9152-25-0528> [26]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9313-25-0375> [27]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9842-25-0272> [28]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/F0060-25-0014> [29]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9196-25-1163> [30]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9798-1508> [31]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9175-25-0222> [32]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9348-25-1569> [33]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B0534-25-0027> [34]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9842-25-0259> [35]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9434-25-0693> [36]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/K0002-25-0022> [37]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B9832-2025-NM-9918> [38]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9846-25-0463> [39]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9241-25-0264> [40]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9349-25-1868> [41]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/H9040-25-0987> [42]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9448-25-0193> [43]

<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9229-25-0447> [44]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/H9110-25-0974> [45]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B9826-PCNF-6304> [46]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0279-25-1132> [47]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/M0035-25-0343> [48]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0279-25-1105> [49]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/adult-nurse> [50]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/occupational-health-nurse>  
[51] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/learning-disability-nurse> [52]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/mental-health-nurse> [53]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/public-health-nurse>