

Healthy Communities Start with STEM

Nafissa Cisse Egbuonye sees the impact of STEM every day. From navigating a global pandemic to making sure local drinking water remains safe, she uses her STEM skills to foster stronger communities. She is the director of public health for the Black Hawk County Health Department.

As a result of the pandemic, public health emerged as one of the most visible STEM fields in 2020. Using research and data analysis, Dr. Egbuonye and her team monitored the spread of COVID-19 and used their findings to make recommendations to keep community members safe and healthy.

“Public health is interesting because it is a scientific field that encompasses so many different things,” said Dr. Egbuonye. “Human behavior, changing environments and different cultures influence how we understand and communicate about public health.”

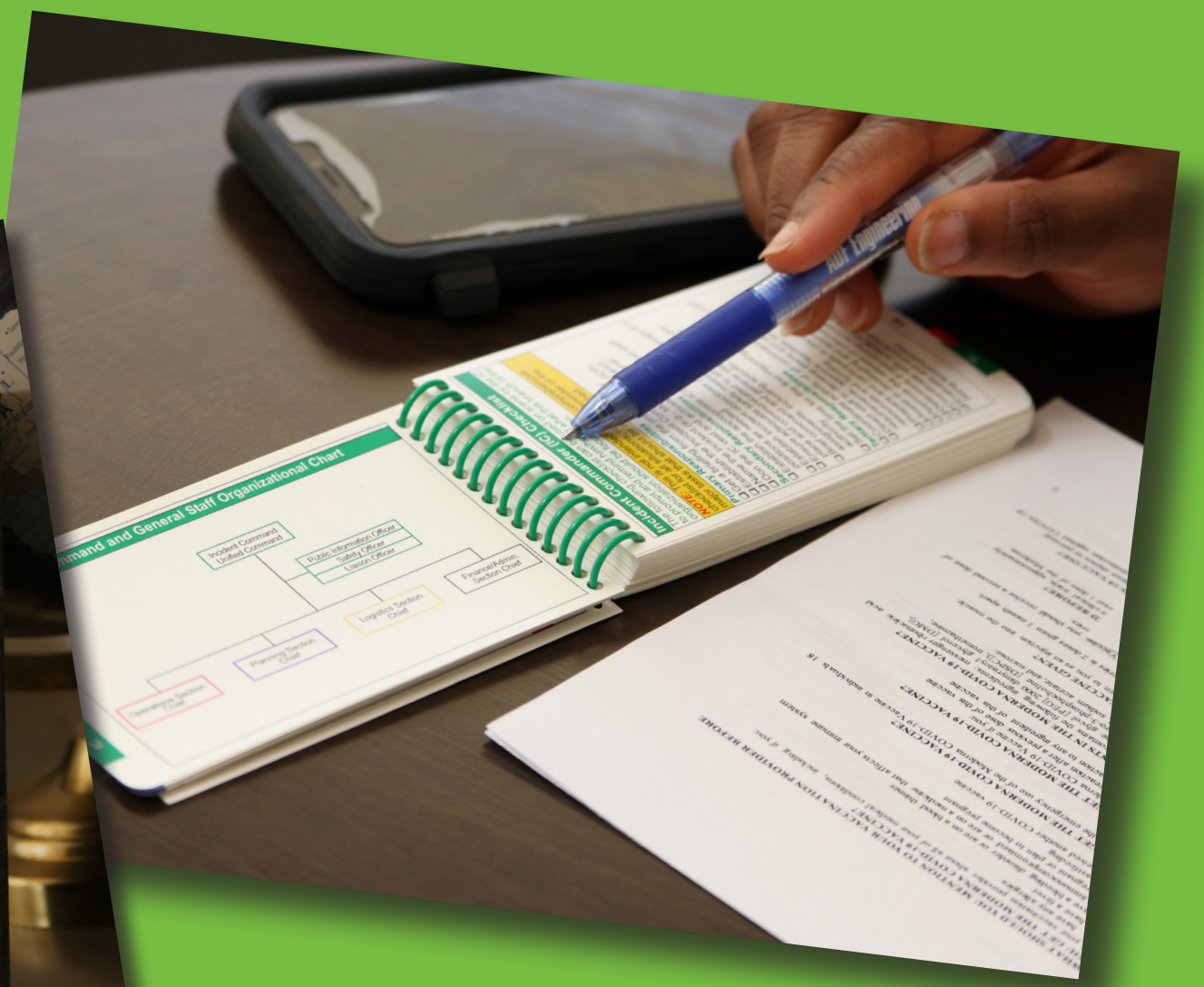
While dealing with infectious disease is important, it is only one aspect of public health. In her role, Dr. Egbuonye works to identify inequities in public health and uses STEM to help eliminate them.

“I want to see more youth in STEM. They will have the ability to make effective and meaningful change in our society,” said Dr. Egbuonye. “They’ll be using STEM for the greater good—and that’s important.”

Dr. Nafissa Cisse Egbuonye

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Dr. Nafissa Cisse Egbuonye,
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