



PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Public health and infection prevention leader with advanced training in healthcare innovation and emergency preparedness. Skilled in managing cross-functional projects, developing data-informed strategies, and supporting grant deliverables aligned with special pathogen preparedness. Experienced in collaborating with EMS, public health, and healthcare partners across sectors to advance resilience and infectious disease response capacity.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE
Health Innovation & Leadership Specialty
Planetary Health Focus
University of Minnesota, 2024

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
University of Minnesota, 2024

CERTIFICATE
Healthcare Design & Innovation
University of Minnesota, 2024

CERTIFIED INFECTION CONTROL (CIC)
CBIC (Certification Board of Infection
Control and Epidemiology Inc. , 2025

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, NURSING
St. Catherine University, 2018

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE, NURSING
St. Catherine University, 2013

BACHELOR OF ARTS, MASS COMM.
Emphasis in Public Relations
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, 2005

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

INFECTION PREVENTIONIST

- M Health Fairview, Minneapolis, MN | January 2022-Present
- Lead infectious disease response planning and outbreak preparedness initiatives to ensure readiness for emerging health threats
 - Serve as a subject matter expert in high consequence infectious diseases and emerging infections, developing infection control strategies and response plans
 - Provide strategic leadership on the special pathogens team to enhance preparedness and response capabilities for high risk infections
 - Develop, implement, facilitate, and monitor infection control standards, ensuring alignment with best practices and regulatory requirements.
 - Determine and oversee appropriate processes for data collection, analysis, and reporting, using surveillance trends to guide infection prevention strategies.
 - Identify infection prevention opportunities, design targeted interventions, & proactively address emerging issues to mitigate risks.
 - Analyze trends and collect data to inform infection control strategies, overseeing risk communication and infection prevention initiatives while adhering to CDC and MDH guidelines
 - Develop transdisciplinary educational materials and lead training sessions in formal and informal settings to enhance infection prevention and emergency preparedness knowledge.
 - Provide infection prevention and climate change expertise to healthcare leadership, supporting policy development and organizational strategy.
 - Cultivate transdisciplinary partnerships to strengthen infection prevention and emergency preparedness initiatives.
 - Collaborate on grant-funded special pathogen projects ensuring effective implementation
 - Effectively manage multi-sectoral partnerships to strengthen preparedness efforts

DR. MELISSA THONE, DNP, MPH, RN, PHN, CIC

Public Health Leader Infection Preventionist

AWARDS & HONORS

CLIMATE HEALTH ORGANIZING FELLOWSHIP (CHOF)

Cambridge Health Alliance
Center for Health Equity Education & Advocacy
Harvard University
October 2023-September 2024

SIGMA THETA TAU HONOR SOCIETY

University of Minnesota
Inducted 2022

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Project Management
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Cross-Sector Collaboration
- High-Consequence Infectious Disease Readiness
- Emergency Preparedness
- Strategic Planning & Implementation
- Health Equity & Climate Justice
- Incident Command System
- Risk Assessment
- Data Interpretation
- Science Communication
- Public Speaking
- Healthcare Sustainability

MIDWEST PEER LEARNING CIRCLE

Climate Advocacy Lab | 2024-present

- Collaborate with regional leaders to advance climate-health education and advocacy efforts.
- Engage in knowledge-sharing and strategy development to promote health-centered climate action.

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES WORK GROUP

Minnesota Climate Action Framework | 2024-present

- Collaborate with state and local stakeholders to advance sustainability metrics and climate adaptation strategies for health care systems.
- Promote equity-driven solutions and provide actionable frameworks for integrating sustainability into organizational goals.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE DIGITAL RESOURCE CREATION

Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership | 2023

- Designed an online resource to empower communities in assessing and addressing climate-related health risks.
- Developed health assessment tools and educational content, leveraging nursing principles to enhance accessibility and relevance.
- Partnered with public health experts and community leaders to ensure the resource addressed diverse community needs.
- Evaluated user feedback to iteratively improve the resource, aligning it with best practices in climate adaptation and health communication.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Science Museum of Minnesota | April 2023, 2024

- Delivered interactive planetary health education programs for diverse audiences, fostering understanding of climate-health intersections.
- Collaborated globally to adapt similar educational models in Australia, expanding planetary health advocacy.
- Secured partnerships with local environmental organizations to enhance event offerings and strengthen community engagement.

TRANSFORMING CURRICULUM USING THE PLANETARY HEALTH EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

Presented, Planetary Health Alliance Meeting | Harvard University, Oct. 2022

- Developed a groundbreaking curriculum framework to integrate environmental health principles into nursing education.
- Collaborated with academic leaders to create actionable tools and resources, ensuring accessibility and global applicability.
- Presented the framework to an international audience, receiving recognition for its potential to transform planetary health education.
- Partnered with institutions to pilot the framework, fostering a unified approach to sustainability in health care education.