

2019 NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

APRIL 1-7, 2019 • CREATING THE HEALTHIEST NATION: FOR SCIENCE. FOR ACTION. FOR HEALTH.

DAILY THEME — DAY 4



Technology and Public Health

Thursday, April 4

Technology and Public Health

For science: New technologies are transforming the public health landscape. Organizers are building online learning communities where public health practitioners worldwide can swap best practices and increase their education and learning opportunities. National health officials use GIS mapping to track a range of serious health conditions. Public health lab workers use state-of-the-art technology to rapidly detect, trace, and contain disease outbreaks. Health department workers have taken to [social media](#) to educate and advocate within their local communities.

For action: Support public health funding levels that allow the field workers to leverage the latest technology on behalf of population health. Support and make time for workforce training efforts that teach public health practitioners how to use and deploy new technologies in their community health efforts.

For health: An example of using technology as a public health tool is [Text4baby app](#), which provides personalized text messaging services for pregnant women and new moms. Participants have higher levels of knowledge about issues, such as staying healthy during pregnancy, safe newborn sleep, and infant feeding. Evidence is also beginning to emerge on the potential of health and activity-tracking mobile apps in encouraging healthy behavior changes. For an example of the public health-technology connection, see [San Diego Health Connect](#).

Information provided from American Public Health Association's National Public Health Week [webpage](#).