

# THE THREE CORE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS

## And the Essential Public Health Services

### Assessment

- ❑ Monitor health status to identify community health problems
- ❑ Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
- ❑ Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services

### Policy Development

- ❑ Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- ❑ Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- ❑ Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

### Assurance

- ❑ Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
- ❑ Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce
- ❑ Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
- ❑ Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems

**Essential Service: Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems**

**Activities by state and/or local public health agencies**

- Determine and monitor water quality
- Monitor water wells
- Monitor wastewater treatment and disposal
- Identification of water-quality problems
- Mosquito surveillance
- Immunizations
- STD/HIV testing and counseling
- Food-borne illness investigations
- Bio-emergency preparation and coordination
- Tracking of number of wells, abandoned wells
- Screening for diabetes
- Needs assessment
- Collection of child oral health data
- Child lead-poisoning surveillance

**Essential service: Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community**

**Activities by state and/or local public health agencies**

- Medical examiners
- Epidemiology
- TB
- HIV/AIDS
- Investigation and evaluation of nuisance complaints
- Wellhead assessments and site evaluations

**Essential Service: Inform, educate and empower people about health issues**

**Activities by state and/or local public health agencies**

- Community health education and health promotion

- Public health education through the media, presentations, the Internet, displays, etc.
- HIV/AIDS risk reduction curriculum
- Child-abuse education
- Domestic violence education
- WIC educational programs
- Informing, educating parties involved in nuisance investigations
- Public education about well construction

**Essential Service: Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems**

**Activities by state and/or local public health agencies**

- Tobacco-free coalitions
- Bio-emergency regional collaboration
- Collaborative efforts with private industry to combat domestic violence
- Community partnerships with law enforcement, county attorneys, community betterment groups, housing authorities
- Referrals and collaboration with health-care providers
- Collaboration with WIC, public health nursing, special-population advocates to meet the needs of special populations

**Essential service: Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts**

**Activities by state and/or local public health agencies**

- State board of health oversight and regulatory functions
- Local board of health oversight and regulatory functions
- Public hearings
- Administration of state and local public health departments
- Monitoring of contractors/providers
- Community health planning
- Strategic and performance planning
- Development of a plan to address housing needs
- Updating of health and nuisance ordinances
- Development of policies on investigations, police assistance and trespass and safety issues

- Board of health adoption of rules that require better management of water systems in small, rural subdivisions
- Determination of need for community water supplies
- Development of variance procedures
- Establishment of procedures for water well permits
- Establishment of civil citation authority
- Establishment of procedures to deal with contaminated or high risk sites
- Establishment of financial assistance for well sampling, plugging or rehabilitation

**Essential service: Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety**

**Activities by state and/or local public health agencies**

- Hazardous materials and sites inspections and certifications
- Milk inspections
- Professional licensure and regulation
- Food inspections
- Tanning and tattoo inspections
- Enforcement of state/county/local health-related rules and ordinances

**Essential service: Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable**

**Activities by state and/or local public health agencies**

- TB program
- Public health nursing services
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection program
- Maternal and child health
- WIC
- Critical Access Hospitals
- Linkages to regional landfills for disposal options
- Informing the public on useful nuisance-abatement web sites

**Essential Service: Assure a competent public and personal health-care work force**

**Activities by state and/or local public health agencies**

- Food-service worker Safety Certification Course
- Public health certification
- Learning management system
- Regional bio-emergency meetings
- Public health practitioner performance evaluations
- Sanitarian, water-contractor training
- Certification of environmental health professionals

**Essential service: Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services**

**Activities by state and/or local public health agencies**

- Data management
- Performance-plan monitoring
- Public health contract requirements
- Health needs assessments
- Tracking responses to complaints
- Permit issuance for nuisances
- Ensuring that wells drilled by certified people
- Sealing unused, unsafe wells

**Essential service: Research new insights and innovative solutions to health problems**

**Activities by state and/or local public health agencies**

- Health needs assessments
- Bio-emergency survey participation
- Lighten Up survey participation
- Customer service evaluations
- Promotion of recycling and composting
- Study of successful public health programs in other jurisdictions
- Research on water-treatment methods