

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
Colorado State Board of Health
CORE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES - NEW RULE
6 CCR 1014-7

Section 1 – Purpose and Authority for Rules

- 1.1 These rules address the recognition that an effective public health system needs clearly defined core public health services. These core public health services are long-term programs, representing the minimum level of public health services that local public health agencies would provide in a modern public health system. Core public health services are intended to improve the health of individuals as well as the health of our communities.
- 1.2 These rules further recognize that county and district public health agencies are essential to the provision of quality and comprehensive public health services throughout the state and are critical partners with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in maintaining a strong public health system.
- 1.3 This regulation is adopted pursuant to the authority in section 25-1-503 et seq., C.R.S. and is intended to be consistent with the requirements of the State Administrative Procedures Act, section 24-4-101 et seq. (the “APA”), C.R.S.

Section 2 – Definitions

- 2.1 All definitions that appear in Section 25-1-502, C.R.S., shall apply to these rules.
- 2.2 “Agency” means a county or district public health agency established pursuant to section 25-1-506.
- 2.3 “Core public health” shall be defined by the state board and shall include, but need not be limited to, the assessment of health status and health risks, development of policies to protect and promote health, and the assurance of provision of the essential public health services.
- 2.4 “Essential public health services” means to:
 - A. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
 - B. Investigate and diagnose health problems and health hazards in the community.
 - C. Inform, educate, and empower individuals about health issues.
 - D. Mobilize public and private collaboration and action to identify and solve health problems.
 - E. Develop policies, plans, and programs that support individual and community health efforts.
 - F. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and promote safety.
 - G. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care.
 - H. Encourage a competent public health workforce.
 - I. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
 - J. Contribute to research into insightful and innovative solutions to health problems.

Section 3 - General Statement of Duties:

- 3.1 Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes, part 5 of article 1 of title 25, in addition to all other powers and duties, a county or district public health agency has the following duties:
- A. To provide or arrange for the provision of quality core public health services as defined by the state board or deemed essential by the comprehensive statewide improvement plan (section 25-1-506 (3)(b)(iii), C.R.S.).
1. The county or district agency shall be deemed to have met this requirement if the agency can demonstrate to the county or district board that other providers offer core public health services that are sufficient to meet the local need as determined by a local public health plan (Section 25-1-506 (3)(b)(iii), C.R.S.).
- B. Exemptions from the Provision of Core Services are further detailed in Section 5, below.

Section 4 – The Provision of Core Public Health Services:

- 4.1 Public health core services in Colorado shall include, but need not be limited to the following:
- A. Assessment and Planning. All county and district public health agencies are required to use assessment and planning methodologies to identify, evaluate and understand community health problems, priority populations, and potential threats to the public's health, and use this knowledge to determine what strategies are needed to engage partners and improve health. Furthermore, agencies are required to:
1. Participate in integrated state, local, and national surveillance system(s) that quantify public health and environmental problems and threats.
 2. Complete a local public health improvement plan based on a comprehensive assessment of the community's health and environmental status at a minimum of every five years.
 3. Use regional and county data, provided by CDPHE, on conditions of public health health importance, including: chronic and communicable disease; environmental hazards; health disparities; determinants of health; and injury.
- B. Vital Records and Statistics: All county and district public health agencies are required to record and report vital events (e.g., births and deaths) in compliance with Colorado statutes, Board of Health Regulations, and Office of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics policies.
1. County and district public health directors shall act as the local registrar of vital statistics or contract out the responsibility of registrar in the area over which the agency has jurisdiction.
 2. The state registrar shall designate vital records offices and may establish or designate additional offices to aid in the efficient administration of the system of vital statistics.
- C. Investigate and Control Communicable Diseases: All county and district public health agencies are required to track the incidence and distribution of disease in the population and prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases, zoonotic, vector, air-borne, water-borne and food-borne illnesses, and other diseases that are transmitted person-to-person. Furthermore, agencies are required to:
1. Collect and report disease information according to Colorado Board of Health Rules and Regulations.
 2. Investigate cases of reportable diseases and suspected outbreaks according to standard protocols and guidance provided by CDPHE.

3. Assure immunizations using standard protocols, and monitor community immunization levels.
 4. Take appropriate measures to prevent disease transmission using methods specific to: infected persons (isolation, treatment, contact tracing/notification); contacts to infected persons (quarantine, prophylaxis); and the environment in which the communicable disease occurs (facility closure, disinfection).
 5. Work closely with CDPHE in communicable disease investigation and control, particularly if the investigation crosses county lines or technical assistance is needed.
- D. Prevention and Population Health Promotion: All county and district public health agencies are required to develop, implement, and evaluate strategies (policies and programs) to enhance and promote healthy living, quality of life and wellbeing while reducing the incidence of preventable (chronic and communicable) diseases, injuries, disabilities and other poor health outcomes across the life-span. Furthermore, agencies are required to:
1. Promote physical (including oral) health, mental and behavioral health, and environmental health with emphasis on increasing health equity among priority populations (e.g., children, elderly, racial or ethnic populations).
 2. Address identified risk factors or behaviors (e.g., tobacco use, physical activity, nutrition, teen pregnancy, sexually-transmitted infections) based on community health assessment priorities.
 3. Inform, educate, and engage the public and policymakers to build community consensus and capability to promote/support evidenced-based strategies that enable healthy personal, organizational, and community behaviors and environments.
 4. Assure strategies are delivered in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.
 5. Coordinate efforts with governmental and community partners to link individuals to services such as primary care, maternal and child health care, oral health care, specialty care, and mental health care.
 6. Develop community specific solutions to address prevention priorities.
 7. Promote and participate in planning for sustainable environments that support healthy living.
- E. Emergency Preparedness and Response: All county and district public health agencies are required to prepare and respond to emergencies with a public health or environmental health implication in coordination with local, state and federal agencies and public and private sector partners. Furthermore, agencies are required to:
1. Participate in All-Hazards planning, training, exercises, and response activities within the local jurisdiction.
 2. Serve as or support the “Emergency Support Function 8 -Public Health” lead for the county, region, or jurisdiction.
 3. Implement an emergency communication strategy to inform the community and to activate emergency response personnel in the event of a public health crisis.
 4. Coordinate with county Emergency Managers and other first responders.
- F. Environmental Health: Recognizing that significant responsibility for environmental quality management and oversight lies with state and federal agencies, all county and district public health agencies are required to participate in the protection and improvement of air, water, land, and food quality by identifying, investigating, and responding to community

environmental health concerns, reducing current and emerging environmental health risks, preventing communicable diseases, and sustaining the environment. These activities shall be consistent with applicable laws and regulations, and coordinated with local, state and federal agencies, industry, and the public. Furthermore, agencies are required to:

1. Assure the prevention and control vector-borne (e.g. insects, rodents), air-borne, water-borne, food-borne, and other public health threats related to environmental hazards.
2. Assure the protection of surface water and groundwater, including recreational waters and drinking water sources, and assure appropriate local regulatory oversight of onsite waste water systems.
3. Assure the safety of food provided to the public at retail food establishments.
4. Assure sanitation of institutional facilities (e.g., child care facilities, local correctional facilities and schools).
5. Assure the proper storage, collection, treatment, and disposal of garbage, refuse, and solid and hazardous waste.
6. Promote programs to minimize the amount of solid and hazardous waste and maximize the amount of recycling and reuse.
7. Participate in land use planning and sustainable development to encourage decisions that promote positive public health outcomes (e.g., consideration of housing, urban development, recreational facilities and transport), and that protect and improve air quality, water quality and solid waste management.
8. Where appropriate and practicable, enter into contracts or other acceptable agreements with the state's environmental programs in order to perform local assessments, inspections, investigations, and monitoring programs.

G. Administration and Governance: All county and district public health agencies are required to establish and maintain the necessary programs, personnel, facilities, information technology, and other resources to deliver public health services throughout the agency's jurisdiction. This may be done in collaboration with community and regional partners. Furthermore, agencies are required to:

1. Maintain competent, appropriate staffing and other resources to ensure capacity for delivery of core public health services.
2. Meet minimum quality standards in the delivery of public health services throughout the jurisdiction.
3. Implement public health laws, policies, and procedures regarding agency operations in coordination with state administrative rules and regulations.
4. Assure evaluation of core public health services provided in the jurisdiction.
5. Establish procedures for working across jurisdictional boundaries and/or for requesting assistance in the delivery of public health services.
6. Demonstrate effective financial management systems and management of the public health fund in accordance with C.R.S. 25-1-511.

4.2 Delivery of the core services shall be performed in accordance with the 10 Essential Public Health Services as defined by section 25-1-502, C.R.S.

Section 5 - Exemption from the Provision of Core Services:

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- 5.1 When sufficient appropriations are absent, the county or district board may set priorities for fulfilling the duties described in paragraph (b), subsection (3) of section 25-1-506, C.R.S., and include the list of priorities in its county or district public health plan submitted pursuant to section 25-1-505, C.R.S.
- 5.2 The county or district board of health may choose to limit the scope of the core public health services provided if:
 - A. There is limited need for the core public health services in the community, or
 - B. Other providers provide this service sufficient to meet the local need.

Section 6 – The Failure to Provide Core Public Health Services

- 6.1 Pursuant to section 25-1-510, C.R.S., the state department may:
 - A. Reallocate state funds from an agency that is not able to provide core public health services to another entity to deliver services in that agency's jurisdiction.