

This DRAFT is based on input gathered from public health professionals across the state during summer 2009. Input will continue to be gathered from local boards of health, agencies and other interested parties. A formal rulemaking process is not anticipated until 2010.

DRAFT: CORE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS) 25-1-502, "*Public Health*" means the prevention of injury, disease, and premature mortality; the promotion of health in the community; and the response to public and environmental health needs and emergencies. It is accomplished through the provision of the essential public health services. "*Core public health*" is to be defined by the State Board of Health and shall include, but need not be limited to, the assessment of population health status and health risks, development of policies to protect and promote health, and assurance of the provision of essential public health services.

All county or district public health agencies organized under the Colorado Revised Statutes are to provide, or assure the provision of and direct people to, public health core services. Public health core services shall meet the needs of the population served by the county or district. In some jurisdictions, the services may be provided by other counties, community organizations or agencies; however, the county or district public health agency has an obligation to assure that core services are available. See Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS) 25-1-506 (County and District Local health Agencies). As part of the public health system, delivery of the core services shall be performed with attention to the 10 Essential Public Health Services as developed by the national Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee in 1994:

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
2. Investigate and diagnose health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower individuals about health issues.
4. Mobilize public and private collaboration and action to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies, plans, and programs that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and promote safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care.
8. Encourage a competent public health workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Contribute to research into insightful and innovative solutions to health problems.

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1 **Public health core services in Colorado shall include, but need not be limited to the**
2 **following:**

3 **Assessment and Planning:** Use assessment and planning methodologies to identify,
4 evaluate and understand community health problems, priority populations, and
5 potential threats to the public's health and use this knowledge to determine what
6 strategies are needed to engage partners and improve health.

- 7 • Participate in integrated state, local, and national surveillance system(s) that
8 quantify public health and environmental problems and threats
- 9 • Complete a local public health improvement plan based on a comprehensive
10 assessment of the community's health and environmental status at a minimum
11 of every five years that includes:
 - 12 ○ The leading causes of disease, injury, disability and death of the
13 population within the jurisdiction
 - 14 ○ Health status and environmental indicators analyzed by income, age,
15 race/ethnicity, and other socio/geo/demographic characteristics,
16 where possible, to identify priority populations
 - 17 ○ Indicators of the determinants of health (or root causes), using data from
18 a range of sources including the physical and social environment
 - 19 ○ Identification of assets and resources which support the public health
20 system in promoting and protecting health

21 CDPHE will support the delivery of this service by collaborating in the collection,
22 maintenance and provision of state and regional/county-level data on conditions of
23 public health importance, including chronic and communicable disease;
24 environmental hazards; health disparities; determinants of health; and injury. CDPHE
25 will also provide technical assistance to local public health agencies in interpreting
26 data and in public health planning.

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28 **Vital Records and Statistics:** Record and report vital events (e.g., births and deaths) in
29 compliance with Colorado statutes, Board of Health Regulations, and Office of the
30 State Registrar of Vital Statistics policies. County and district public health directors
31 shall act as the local registrar of vital statistics or contract out the responsibility of
32 registrar in the area over which the agency has jurisdiction.

33
34 The state registrar shall designate vital records offices and may establish or designate
35 additional offices to aid in the efficient administration of the system of vital statistics.
36 CDPHE will coordinate services, provide training, analyze statistics, and make
37 available compiled reports as appropriate.

38
39 **Investigate and Control Communicable Diseases:** Track the incidence and
40 distribution of disease in the population and prevent and control vaccine-
41 preventable diseases, zoonotic, vector, air-borne, water-borne and food-borne
42 illnesses, and other diseases that are transmitted person-to-person.

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44 • Collect and report disease information according to Colorado Board of Health
45 Rules and Regulations

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- Investigate cases of reportable diseases and suspected outbreaks according to standard protocols and guidance provided by CDPHE
- Assure immunizations using standard protocols, and monitor community immunization levels
- 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)

CDPHE will work closely with local public health agencies in communicable disease investigation and control, particularly if the investigation crosses county lines or technical assistance is requested.

Prevention and Population Health Promotion: 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.

- 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)
- Address identified risk factors or behaviors (e.g., tobacco use, physical activity, nutrition, teen pregnancy, sexually-transmitted infections) based on community health assessment priorities
- 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
- Assure strategies are delivered in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner
- 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
- Develop community specific solutions to address prevention priorities
- Promote and participate in planning for sustainable environments that support healthy living

CDPHE will assist and provide technical assistance, grants, and funding when available and convene planning groups and support coalitions as needed.

Emergency Preparedness and Response: 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.

- Participate in All-Hazards planning, training, exercises, and response activities within the local jurisdiction
- Serve as or support the "Emergency Support Function 8-Public Health" lead for the county, region, or jurisdiction

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- 1 • Implement an emergency communication strategy to inform the community
2 and to activate emergency response personnel in the event of a public health
3 crisis
- 4 • Coordinate with county Emergency Managers and other first responders
5 CDPHE supports EPR regionally and at the state level and makes every effort to
6 coordinate activities with local public health agencies.

7
8 **Environmental Health:** Protect and improve air, water, land, and food quality by
9 identifying, investigating, and responding to community environmental health
10 concerns, reducing current and emerging environmental health risks, preventing
11 communicable diseases, and sustaining the environment. These activities shall be
12 consistent with applicable laws and regulations, and coordinated with local, state
13 and federal agencies, industry, and the public.

- 14 • Prevent and control vector-borne (e.g. insects, rodents), air-borne, water-
15 borne, food-borne, and other public health threats related to environmental
16 hazards
- 17 • Protect surface water and groundwater, including recreational waters and
18 drinking water sources, and assure appropriate local regulatory oversight of
19 onsite waste water systems
- 20 • Assure the safety of food provided to the public at retail food establishments
- 21 • Assure sanitation of institutional facilities (e.g., child care facilities, local
22 correctional facilities and schools)
- 23 • Assure the proper storage, collection, treatment, and disposal of garbage,
24 refuse, and solid and hazardous waste
- 25 • Promote programs to minimize the amount of solid and hazardous waste and
26 maximize the amount of recycling and reuse
- 27 • Participate in land use planning and sustainable development to encourage
28 decisions that promote positive public health outcomes (e.g., consideration of
29 housing, urban development, recreational facilities and transport), and that
30 protect and improve air quality, water quality and solid waste management

31 Certain environmental quality management and oversight activities and functions
32 are conducted only by state or federal agencies. CDPHE will inform and
33 communicate with local public health agencies regarding these activities and
34 functions so that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and, where
35 appropriate, will coordinate with local public health agencies and with other state
36 agencies on these activities and functions. Where appropriate and practicable, local
37 public health agencies are encouraged to enter into contracts or other acceptable
38 agreements with the state's environmental programs in order to perform local
39 assessments, inspections, investigations, and monitoring programs.

40
41 **Administration and Governance:** Establish and maintain the necessary programs,
42 personnel, facilities, information technology, and other resources to deliver public
43 health services throughout the agency's jurisdiction. This may be done in
44 collaboration with community and regional partners.

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- 1 • Maintain competent, appropriate staffing and other resources to ensure
- 2 capacity for delivery of core public health services
- 3 • Meet minimum quality standards in the delivery of public health services
- 4 throughout the jurisdiction
- 5 • Implement policies and procedures regarding agency operations
- 6 • Assure evaluation of core public health services provided in the jurisdiction
- 7 • Establish procedures for working across jurisdictional boundaries and/or for
- 8 requesting assistance in the delivery of public health services
- 9 • Demonstrate effective financial management systems and management of the
- 10 public health fund in accordance with CRS 25-1-511
- 11 CDPHE will coordinate with local public health agencies to promulgate
- 12 administrative rules and regulations necessary to implement public health statutes.

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Core Services / 10 Essential Public Health Services	Monitor health status	Diagnose & investigate health problems	Inform, educate, & empower people	Mobilize community partnerships	Develop policies & plans	Enforce laws & regulations	Link people to healthcare services	Assure a competent workforce	Evaluate	Research
Assessment & Planning	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓
Vital Records & Statistics	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Investigate & Control Communicable Diseases	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Prevention & Population Health Promotion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Emergency Preparedness & Response	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Environmental Health	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Administration & Governance								✓		