

Proposed 10 Essential Public Health Services for Vetting

March 2020

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve optimal health for all, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems, and services that enable good health and seek to remove obstacles and systemic and structural barriers, such as poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of oppression, that have resulted in health inequities. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve good health and well-being.

Essential Public Health Service #1

Assess and monitor health status, factors that influence health, needs, and assets to understand and improve population health and well-being.

This service includes:

- Identifying threats to population health and assessing health needs and community assets
- Using data and information to determine the root causes of health disparities and inequities
- Working with the community to understand community health status, assets, needs, key influences, and community narrative
- Being transparent and inclusive with all partners and the community
- Collaborating with and facilitating data sharing with all partners, including non-traditional partners
- Collecting, monitoring, and analyzing data on health and factors that influence health, including disproportionately affected populations to identify threats, patterns, and emerging issues
- Using innovative technology, data collection methods, and data sets
- Utilizing various methods and technology to interpret and communicate data to diverse audiences

Essential Public Health Service #2

Diagnose, investigate, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population, including the identification of root causes.

This service includes:

- Anticipating and preventing emerging health threats through epidemiologic identification
- Monitoring real-time health status and patterns to identify acute outbreaks, chronic diseases, and injuries
- Using public health laboratory capabilities and modern technology to conduct rapid screening and high-volume testing
- Analyzing and utilizing inputs from multiple sectors and sources to consider social, economic, and environmental root causes of health status
- Identifying, analyzing, and distributing information from new, big, and real-time data sources

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Essential Public Health Service #3

Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, including factors that influence it and how to improve it.

This service includes:

- Developing and disseminating accessible health information and resources, including through collaboration with multi-sector partners
- Communicating with accuracy and necessary speed
- Using appropriate communications channels—social media, peer-to-peer networks, mass media, and other channels—to effectively reach the target populations
- Developing and deploying culturally and linguistically appropriate and relevant communications, which includes working with stakeholders and influencers in the community to create effective and culturally resonant materials
- Employing the principles of risk communication to engage when appropriate
- Actively engaging in two-way communication to build trust with populations served and ensure effectiveness of prevention and health promotion strategies
- Ensuring public health communications efforts are asset-based when appropriate and do not reinforce narratives that are damaging to disproportionately affected populations

Essential Public Health Service #4

Strengthen, support, and mobilize the community and partnerships to improve population health.

This service includes:

- Convening and facilitating multi-sector partnerships and coalitions that include sectors not traditionally associated with health (e.g., planning, transportation, housing, education, etc.)
- Fostering and building authentic relationships with a diverse group of partners that reflect the community and the population and build on their strengths
- Including and involving community members and organizations in the development of public health solutions
- Learning from and supporting existing community partnerships and contributing public health expertise

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Essential Public Health Service #5

Create and champion policies and plans that improve and protect the public's health, remove obstacles to optimal health, and support the resilience of the entire population.

This service includes:

- Developing plans, policies, codes, and regulations that guide the practice of public health
- Systematically examining and improving existing policies, plans, and regulations to correct historical injustices
- Ensuring that new policies, plans, and regulations provide a fair and just opportunity for all to achieve good health
- Providing input into policies, plans, and regulations to ensure that health impact is considered
- Continuously monitoring and developing policies, plans, and regulations that increase public health and community preparedness against health and environmental threats
- Collaborating with all partners, including non-traditional partners, to develop and support plans and policies
- Working across partners and with the community for systematic and continuous community-level and state-level health improvement strategy and planning, implementing, evaluating, and improving

Essential Public Health Service #6

Employ legal and regulatory actions to protect and ensure the public's health and safety.

This service includes:

- Ensuring that applicable laws and regulations are followed to protect the public's health
- Preventing and mitigating public health hazards
- Conducting enforcement activities that may include, but are not limited to: sanitary codes, especially in the food industry; full protection of drinking water supplies; and timely follow-up of hazards, preventable injuries, and exposure-related diseases identified in occupational and community settings
- Licensing and monitoring the quality of healthcare services (e.g., laboratory, nursing homes, and home healthcare)
- Reviewing new drug, biologic, and medical device applications
- Licensing and credentialing the healthcare workforce
- Including health considerations in laws and regulations from other sectors (e.g. zoning)

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Essential Public Health Service #7

Assure an effective system that enables equitable access, by all people, to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.

This service includes:

- Connecting the population to needed health and social services that support the whole person, including preventive services
- Ensuring access to high-quality and cost-effective healthcare and services, including behavioral and mental health services, that are culturally and linguistically appropriate
- Addressing and removing barriers to care
- Building relationships with payers and healthcare providers, including the sharing of data across partners to foster health and well-being
- Ensuring a trained and qualified healthcare workforce

Essential Public Health Service #8

Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.

This service includes:

- Providing education and training that encompass a spectrum of public health competencies, including technical, strategic, and leadership skills
- Ensuring that the public health workforce is the appropriate size to meet the public's needs
- Building a public health workforce with leadership that reflects the community
- Incorporating public health principles in non-public health curricula
- Cultivating and building active partnerships with academia and other professional training programs and schools to assure community-relevant learning experiences for all learners
- Promoting a culture of lifelong learning in public health, drawing from academic and non-traditional settings
- Building a pipeline of future public health practitioners
- Fostering leadership skills at all levels

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Essential Public Health Service #9

Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement.

This service includes:

- Building and fostering a culture of quality in public health delivery and in public health research
- Linking public health research with public health practice
- Using research, evidence, practice-based insights, and other forms of data to inform decision-making
- Contributing to the evidence base of effective public health practice
- Assessing quality and performance of programs, plans, and services
- Continuously evaluating policies and systems to ensure programs and policies are contributing to health and not creating undue harm

Essential Public Health Service #10

Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure to support public health.

This service includes:

- Ensuring that appropriate, needed resources are allocated for public health
- Exhibiting effective, ethical leadership and decision-making
- Effectively managing financial and human resources
- Employing communications and strategic planning capacities and skills
- Having robust information technology services that are current and meet privacy and security standards

Refer to this [Draft Glossary of Terms](#) for definitions on some of the terms used in the 10 EPHS.