

PROTECT AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Protect Against Environmental Hazards (EH) - The control of environmental and sanitary living conditions is a foundation of public health practice. Protect Against Environmental Hazards Standards focus the need for the public health system to have established procedures in place for monitoring and controlling sanitary living conditions. The standards emphasize the importance of monitoring environmental conditions of risk and enforcing health rules and regulations that minimize or eliminate those risks.

- Standard EH1** - Provide comprehensive environmental health services.
- Standard EH2** - Monitor for environmental health risks and illnesses.
- Standard EH3** - Enforce environmental health rules and regulations.
- Standard EH4** - Assure a competent environmental health workforce.

STANDARD EH1 - PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

LOCAL CRITERIA

EH1a-L - Shall provide core environmental health inspection or consultative services.

“Core services” are defined as:

- Non-public water wells
- On-site wastewater
- Public health nuisances
- Vector control
- Animal control protocol for rabies cases
- Time of Transfer inspections for on-site wastewater and private water wells

EH1b-L - May provide supplemental environmental health inspection or consultative services.

“Supplemental services” may include the following:

- Food safety/lodging
- Childhood lead poisoning prevention
- Pool safety
- Indoor air quality
- Tattoo
- Tanning beds
- Other programs determined by the local board of health

EH1c-L - Maintain a policy and procedure manual for all environmental health services provided. The manual must address minimum required components.

The minimum required components of the policy and procedure manual include:

- Complaint handling
- Permit process
- License process
- Inspection requirements
- Investigation procedures
- Fee requirements
- Enforcement protocols
- Appeal process
- Record keeping and documentation
- Contractor and service provider competency and certification requirements

STATE CRITERIA

EH1a-S - In coordination with other key state agencies, establish minimum inspection criteria for core and supplemental environmental health services.

The inspection criteria will be published in the form of checklists, brochures, procedure manuals, Web sites, etc. for distribution to local programs.

EH1b-S - In coordination with other key state agencies, establish minimum components for local policies and procedures that are consistent with the requirements of EH1c-L.

The minimum components will be published in the form of checklists, brochures, procedure manuals, Web sites, etc. for distribution to local programs.

EH1c-S - Standardize local environmental health specialists on the core and supplemental environmental health services.

EH1d-S - Provide consultation, technical assistance, and resource referral on the delivery of environmental health services.

STANDARD EH2 – MONITOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RISKS AND ILLNESSES.

LOCAL CRITERIA

EH2a-L - Assess data on environmentally related illnesses within the jurisdiction.

EH2b-L - Analyze environmental testing data and use to assess threats.

EH2c-L - Link to local, state, and federal sources of environmental data.

EH2d-L - Establish partnerships with other local jurisdictions, agencies, and/or departments to monitor environmental conditions.

EH2e-L - Engage community stakeholders in the process of reviewing health data and recommending action such as further investigation, new program efforts, or policy direction.

EH2f-L - Review local environmental health indicators at least annually and provide data and information to the community health assessment process.

Refer to Community Assessment and Planning Standards CA1 and CA2.

STATE CRITERIA

EH2a-S - Establish criteria for data collected by local environmental health programs.

EH2b-S - Create Web-based databases for environmental health programs administered by the state public health department.

Programs such as pool/spa, tattoo, and tanning.

EH2c-S - Monitor research on environmentally related diseases and provide summary to local environmental health programs on current issues.

EH2d-S - Inform local environmental health programs of data sources available at the state and federal level.

EH2e-S - Identify technical resources relating to environmentally based health concerns.

Technical resources such as research articles, health registries, Web-based resources (e.g., Epi-Manual, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC)), professional associations, etc. Local programs can use this information to determine health risks and/or other concerns.

STATE CRITERIA

EH2f-S - Provide consultation, technical assistance, and resource referral on environmental health risks and illnesses.

EH2g-S - Establish environmental health indicators to measure the impact of state and local environmental health programs.

Refer to criteria CA2a-S regarding indicators for all public health.

STANDARD EH3 – ENFORCE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RULES AND REGULATIONS.

LOCAL CRITERIA

Refer to Governance Standard GV5 and Administration Standard AD3 regarding enforcement of state health laws.

EH3a-L - Conduct inspections and investigations and follow-up to verify compliance with appropriate rules and laws.

EH3b-L - Annually document number of inspections and investigations conducted.

EH3c-L - Annually document number of resolved and unresolved cases.

EH3d-L - Document the review of policies defined in EH1c-L at a minimum of every five years.

STATE CRITERIA

EH3a-S - Enforce regulatory and contractual requirements placed on local environmental health programs.

EH3b-S - Provide consultation and technical assistance on environmental health regulations.

EH3c-S - Review and update program regulations and fees every five years.

EH3d-S - Conduct inspections and investigations, and follow-up to verify compliance with appropriate rules and laws.

EH3e-S - Annually document number of inspections and investigations conducted.

EH3f-S - Annually document number of resolved and unresolved cases.

STANDARD EH4 – ASSURE A COMPETENT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE.

LOCAL CRITERIA

EH4a-L - Assure environmental health staff members attend a minimum of 12 hours of environmental health related training per year as approved by the Iowa Environmental Health Association registration program.

- (1) Individuals who hold the position of Environmental Health Coordinator/Supervisor are required to obtain 15 hours of public health related continuing education units each year. Refer to Workforce Standard WK3d-L.
- (2) Registration on a calendar year basis.
- (3) Training may be completed through formal training, in-service, on-line, etc.

EH4b-L - Assure all environmental health staff members receive a minimum of one training per year related to the “Core Competencies to Practice Environmental Health,” May 2001.

EH4c-L - Assure key environmental health staff members are educated in risk communication.

STATE CRITERIA

EH4a-S - Provide in-person orientation on the programs referenced in Standard EH1 within 45 days of hire of an Environmental Health Coordinator/Supervisor.

EH4b-S - Provide regular environmental health issue updates to local environmental health programs.

Updates should be incorporated into a format such as the EPI Update and the Iowa Department of Public Health Legislative Update.

EH4c-S - In coordination with other state agencies and professional organizations, identify training on technical skills and core competencies.

EH4d-S - Assure that local environmental health training needs are met.

Assure training for local public health staff and service providers, including emergency management administrators (EMAs), Haz-Mat teams, etc.

EH4e-S - Assure state environmental health staff members meet the requirements of EH4a-L through EH4c-L.