Protect Against Environmental Hazards

The control of environmental and sanitary living conditions is a foundation of public health practice. The environmental health standards emphasize the importance of monitoring environmental conditions of risk and enforcing health rules and regulations that minimize or eliminate those risks.

The Protect Against Environmental Hazards standards were designed to:

- Clarify the legal and program expectations for environmental health. Specific programs are listed to clarify the responsibility of local boards of health for the provision of safe food, water, air, and shelter.
- Emphasize the need for health and outcome data in addition to program data to determine environmental health service needs.
- Enforce rules and regulations that help make sure the environment and human health are protected.
- Define standard continuing education and professional development expectations for all environmental health staff, in addition to the environmental coordinator/supervisor requirements spelled out in the workforce standards.

What are the benefits and outcomes for Iowans?

- A minimum set of environmental health programs will be available to all Iowans.
- Useful health and outcome data to justify the need to support, modify, or eliminate environmental health programs.
- Appropriate enforcement of rules and regulations that help minimize or eliminate risks to human health.
- A well-trained staff to address the environmental health needs of the state.

How will the state public health system change?

- State environmental health programs will improve their use of health and outcome data in determining program needs of the state. The state will look more at outcome data to show what impact programs are having on environmental risks to human health.
- Programs will be enhanced by following the staff education standards and establishing procedures to address the environmental needs of the state.

For more information about the Protect Against Environmental Hazards standards, contact committee co-chairs:

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