

Public Health Core Functions and 10 Essential Services

The following core functions of public health and ten essential services provide the framework for all activities of the Department:

Core Function 1—Assessment

Assessment, monitoring, and surveillance of local health problems and needs, and of resources for dealing with them

Essential Service #1: Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community

Essential Service #2: Protect people from health problems and health hazards

Core Function 2—Policy Development

Policy development and leadership that fosters local involvement and a sense of ownership that emphasizes local needs and that advocates equitable distribution of public resources and complementary private activities commensurate with community needs

Essential Service #3: Give people the information they need to make healthy choices

Essential Service #4: Engage the community to identify and solve health problems

Essential Service #5: Develop public health policies and plans

Core Function 3—Assurance

Assurance that high-quality services, including personal health services, needed for protection of public health in the community are available and accessible to all persons; that the community receives proper consideration in the allocation of federal, state and local resources for public health; and that the community is informed about how to obtain public health, including personal health services, or how to comply with public health requirements

Essential Service #6: Enforce public health law and regulations

Essential Service #7: Help people receive health services

Essential Service #8: Maintain a competent public health workforce

Essential Service #9: Evaluate and improve programs

Core Function 4—System Management

Essential Service #10: Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health

