



**A local board of health supports public health by leading the effort to prevent disease and improve health in the community. This includes physical, mental, and environmental health.**

**Promoting and protecting the health of the public depends upon capable and dedicated community leadership by the local Board of Health.**

## **CORE FUNCTIONS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF A LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH**

### **Assessment:**

- Monitor health status of the community to identify health problems.
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.

### **Policy Development:**

- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

### **Assurance:**

- Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve problems.
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
- Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS**

### **Support the vision and mission of public health.**

- **MISSION:** Healthy Iowans living in a healthy environment.
- **VISION:** Promoting and protecting the health of Iowans.

### **Communicate with your community.**

- Discuss health issues and concerns with business and community leaders.
- Share plans for public health with the community and obtain their input.

### **Develop policy based on community input.**

- Obtain and use current and reliable data to determine policy.
- Support policy for population based public health and for individual health.

### **Assure compliance with legal responsibilities.**

- Understand the Board's legal responsibility.
- Conduct Board meetings in accordance with Iowa Open Meeting law.

### **Support accountable and quality practices.**

- Adopt public health services supported by scientific research and established standards.
- Understand the fiscal support for public health in your community.



## Educational Resources

### Local Board of Health Toolkit

<http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/umphtc/education/boh/>

### Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 137

<http://search.legis.state.ia.us/nxt/gateway.dll/ic?f=templates&fn=default.htm>

### Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 77

<http://search.legis.state.ia.us/nxt/gateway.dll/ic?f=templates&fn=default.htm>

*For more information regarding Local Boards of Health in Iowa, contact:*

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*Serving on a local board of health is an honorable and noteworthy task. If public health is to meet the challenges of the new millennium, its success will depend upon capable and dedicated leadership by the local boards of health.*

*Thank you for promoting and protecting the health of the public in your community through your service on the local board of health.*

Iowa Department of Public Health  
Mariannette Miller-Meeks MD, Director



# LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH

## Roles and Responsibilities

*Public Health is what we, as a society, do together to assure conditions in which we can be healthy.*

## Public Health in Iowa Depends on You!