

The Futures Initiative: the 10 Essential Public Health Services

Changes Made between the Revised Essential Services and the Original Essential Services
September 2020

The original 10 Essential Public Health Services (EPHS) framework was developed in 1994 by a federal working group and serves as the description of the activities that public health systems should undertake in all communities. Organized around the three core functions of public health – assessment, policy development, and assurance – the colorful, circular framework is a familiar graphic in the public health field and has provided a roadmap of goals for carrying out the mission of public health in communities around the nation. However, the public health landscape has shifted dramatically over the past 25 years, and many public health leaders agreed it was time to revisit how the framework can better reflect current and future practice and how it can be used to create communities where people can achieve their best possible health.

The Futures Initiative, a partnership between the de Beaumont Foundation, PHNCI, and a Task Force of public health experts, formed in Spring 2019 to bring the Essential Services national framework in line with current and emerging public health practice needs. This effort engaged the public health field through a variety of input opportunities, including live crowdsourcing events, in-person and virtual townhalls, think tank discussions, and open questionnaires. All direct feedback on the Essential Services and how they might be revised was considered, resulting in a revised version of the 10 EPHS that now centers equity and incorporates concepts relevant to current and future public health practice.

The table that follows show the revised EPHS language from 2020 side-by-side with the original EPHS language from 1994, as well as a narrative that highlights the changes made between the two versions.

ES	Revised EPHS (2020)	Original EPHS (1994)	Changes Made
1	<p>Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maintaining an ongoing understanding of health in the jurisdiction by collecting, monitoring, and analyzing data on health and factors that influence health to identify threats, patterns, and emerging issues, with a particular emphasis on disproportionately affected populations. – Using data and information to determine the root causes of health disparities and inequities. 	<p>Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Accurate, periodic assessment of the community’s health status, including identification of health risks, determinants of health, and determination of health service needs; attention to the vital statistics and health status indicators of groups that are at higher risk than the total population; and identification of community assets that support the local public health system (LPHS) in promoting health and improving quality of life. – Use of appropriate methods and technology, such as geographic information 	<p>Essential service #1 focuses on assessing and monitoring population health. The revised language expands upon the methods by which this is done and recognizes root causes of inequities and importance of disaggregated data and community voice. It further expands upon the concept of multi-sector collaboration and use of innovation, technology, and data.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with the community to understand health status, needs, assets, key influences, and narrative. - Collaborating and facilitating data sharing with partners, including multi-sector partners. - Using innovative technologies, data collection methods, and data sets. - Utilizing various methods and technology to interpret and communicate data to diverse audiences. - Analyzing and using disaggregated data (e.g., by race) to track issues and inform equitable action. - Engaging community members as experts and key partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> systems (GIS), to interpret and communicate data to diverse audiences. - Collaboration among all LPHS components, including private providers and health benefit plans, to establish and use population health registries, such as disease or immunization registries. 	
2	<p>Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anticipating, preventing, and mitigating emerging health threats through epidemiologic identification. - Monitoring real-time health status and identifying patterns to develop strategies to address chronic diseases and injuries. - Using real-time data to identify and respond to acute outbreaks, emergencies, and other health hazards. - Using public health laboratory capabilities and modern technology to conduct rapid screening and high-volume testing. 	<p>Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Epidemiologic investigations of disease outbreaks, patterns of infections, chronic diseases, injuries, environmental hazards, and other public health threats and emergencies. - Active infectious disease epidemiology programs. - Access to a public health laboratory capable of conducting rapid screening and high-volume testing. 	<p>Essential public health service #2 focuses on the role that public health plays in problems and hazards affecting the population. The revised language maintains reference to laboratory access, epidemiology, and public health threats and emergencies, while also highlighting the importance of real-time data, including from other sectors.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 		
<p>3</p>	<p>Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 (e.g., social media, peer-to-peer networks, mass media, and other channels) to effectively reach the intended populations. - Developing and deploying culturally and linguistically appropriate and relevant communications and educational resources, which includes working with stakeholders and influencers in the community to create effective and culturally resonant materials. - Employing the principles of risk communication, health literacy, and health education to inform the public, when appropriate. 	<p>Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health information, health education, and health promotion activities designed to reduce health risk and promote improved health. - Health communication plans and activities such as media advocacy and social marketing. - Accessible health information and educational resources. - Health education and health promotion program partnerships with schools, faith-based communities, work sites, personal care providers, and others to implement and reinforce health promotion programs and messages. 	<p>Essential public health service #3 focuses on the role of health education and communications for public health. The revised language reflects learnings from communication science and now includes concepts of risk communication, deployment of cultural and linguistically appropriate materials, multi-sector partnerships for communication, use of appropriate channels, and the importance of accuracy, timeliness, and two-way communication. It further emphasizes that efforts be asset-based and address equity.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Actively engaging in two-way communication to build trust with populations served and ensure accuracy and effectiveness of prevention and health promotion strategies. – Ensuring public health communications and education efforts are asset-based when appropriate and do not reinforce narratives that are damaging to disproportionately affected populations. 		
4	<p>Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Convening and facilitating multi-sector partnerships and coalitions that include sectors that influence health (e.g., planning, transportation, housing, education, etc.). – Fostering and building genuine, strengths-based relationships with a diverse group of partners that reflect the community and the population. – Authentically engaging with community members and organizations to develop public health solutions. – Learning from, and supporting, existing community partnerships and contributing public health expertise. 	<p>Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identifying potential stakeholders who contribute to or benefit from public health and increasing their awareness of the value of public health. – Building coalitions, partnerships, and strategic alliances to draw upon the full range of potential human and material resources to improve community health. – Convening and facilitating partnerships and strategic alliances among groups and associations (including those not typically considered to be health-related) in undertaking defined health improvement projects, including preventive, screening, rehabilitation, and support programs. 	<p>Essential service #4 focuses on communities and partnerships. It highlights the importance of authentically engaging communities as partners and working with multi-sector partners including those that influence health. It emphasizes the role that public health can play in convening, facilitating, and contributing expertise to solutions.</p>
5	<p>Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health</p>	<p>Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effective local public health governance. 	<p>Essential public health service #5 focuses on policies, plans, and laws that impact health. The revised language includes mention of the role</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing and championing policies, plans, and laws that guide the practice of public health. - Examining and improving existing policies, plans, and laws to correct historical injustices. - Ensuring that policies, plans, and laws provide a fair and just opportunity for all to achieve optimal health. - Providing input into policies, plans, and laws to ensure that health impact is considered. - Continuously monitoring and developing policies, plans, and laws that improve public health and preparedness and strengthen community resilience. - Collaborating with all partners, including multi-sector partners, to develop and support policies, plans, and laws. - Working across partners and with the community to systematically and continuously develop and implement health improvement strategies and plans, and evaluate and improve those plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of policy, codes, regulations, and legislation to protect the health of the public and to guide the practice of public health. - Systematic LPHPS and state-level planning for health improvement in all jurisdictions. - Alignment of LPHS resources and strategies with community health improvement plans. 	<p>public health plays in both developing and championing policies, plans, and laws and using them to correct historical injustices and afford a fair and just opportunity for all people to achieve optimal health. It acknowledges the importance of including health in all policies and adds preparedness and community resilience. It maintains mention of community health improvement planning processes.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public’s health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring that applicable laws are equitably applied to protect the public’s health. - 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 	<p>Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assurance of due process and recognition of individuals’ civil rights in all procedures, enforcement of laws and regulations, and public health emergency actions taken under the board of health or other governing body’s authority. 	<p>Essential public health service #6 focuses on legal and regulatory actions. The revised language adds the concept of equity and expands responsibilities around the legal and regulatory functions of the public health system to protect communities from unsafe food and water, hazardous conditions, and exposure-related diseases that can cause health crises.</p>

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	<p>timely follow-up on hazards, preventable injuries, and exposure-related diseases identified in occupational and community settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 from other sectors (e.g., zoning). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review, evaluation and revision of laws and regulations designed to protect health and safety, reflect current scientific knowledge, and utilize best practice for achieving compliance. - Education of persons and entities obligated to obey and agencies obligated to enforce laws and regulations to encourage compliance. - Enforcement activities in a wide variety of areas of public health concern under authority granted by local, state, and federal rule or law including, but not limited to: abatement of nuisances, animal control, childhood immunizations and other vaccinations, food safety, housing code, local sanitary code, on site wastewater disposal (septic systems), protection of drinking water, school environment, solid waste disposal, swimming pool and bathing area safety and water quality, tobacco control, enforcement activities during emergency situations, and vector control. 	<p>The revised framework moves language about licensing and monitoring the quality of healthcare services (like labs and nursing homes) and licensing and credentialing the healthcare workforce from the original EPHS #8 to here.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 social services, 	<p>Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assuring the identification of populations with barriers to personal health services. - Assuring identification of personal health service needs of populations with limited 	<p>Essential public health service #7 focuses on the public health system’s role in assuring equitable access to individual care services. The revised language adds engaging with health delivery systems (including behavioral and mental health services) and building relationships with payers and healthcare providers.</p>

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	<p>including behavioral and mental health services, that are culturally and linguistically appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaging health delivery systems to assess and address gaps and barriers in accessing needed health services, including behavioral and mental health. - 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. - Contributing to the development of a competent healthcare workforce. 	<p>access to a coordinated system of clinical care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assuring the linkage of people to appropriate personal health services through coordination of provider services and development of interventions that address barriers to care (e.g., culturally and linguistically appropriate staff and materials, transportation services). 	<p>The revised framework moves language about the healthcare workforce from the original EPHS #8 to here.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing education and training that encompasses 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 culturally competent public health workforce and leadership that reflects the community and practices cultural humility. - Incorporating public health principles in non-public health curricula. - Cultivating and building active partnerships with academia and other professional 	<p>Assure competent public and personal health care workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education, training, and assessment of personnel (including volunteers and other lay community health workers) to meet community needs for public and personal health services. - Efficient processes for licensure of professionals. - Adoption of continuous quality improvement and life-long learning programs that include determinants of health. - Active partnerships and strategic alliances with professional training programs to assure community-relevant learning experiences for all students. 	<p>Essential public health service #8 focuses on the public health workforce. The revised language clarifies the public health system's role in building and supporting a diverse and skilled workforce that encompasses a spectrum of public health and cultural competencies. Added language also emphasizes the importance of fostering technical, strategic, and leadership skills at all levels to promote lifelong learning and to create a pipeline of future practitioners.</p> <p>The revised framework moves language about licensing and monitoring the quality of healthcare services (like labs and nursing homes) and licensing and credentialing the healthcare workforce from here to revised EPHS</p>

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	<p>training programs and schools to assure community-relevant learning experiences for all learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting a culture of lifelong learning in public health. - Building a pipeline of future public health practitioners. - Fostering leadership skills at all levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing education in management and leadership development programs for those charged with administrative/executive roles. 	<p>#6. It also moves language about the healthcare workforce from here to revised EPHS #7.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building and fostering a culture of quality in public health organizations and activities. - Linking public health research with public health practice. - Using research, evidence, practice-based insights, and other forms of information to inform decision-making. - Contributing to the evidence base of effective public health practice. - Evaluating services, policies, plans, and laws continuously to ensure they are contributing to health and not creating undue harm. - Establishing and using engagement and decision-making structures to work with the community in all stages of research. - Valuing and using qualitative, quantitative, and lived experience as data and information to inform decision-making. 	<p>Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assurance of ongoing evaluation and critical review of health program effectiveness, based on analysis of health status and service utilization data. - Assurance of the provision of information necessary for allocating resources and reshaping programs. 	<p>Essential public health service #9 focuses on public health innovation and improvement activities. The revised language moves away from evaluating the quality of personal health services to emphasize the public health system’s role in innovating, evaluating, researching, and improving quality and performance of public health functions. Added language also highlights the importance of engaging with the community and utilizing data to inform decision-making processes related to research.</p> <p>The revised framework moves the concepts of research, identification and monitoring of innovative solutions, linkages between public health practice and academia, health policy analyses, and public health systems research from the original EPHS #10 to here.</p>

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<p>10</p>	<p>Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Developing an understanding of the broader organizational infrastructures and roles that support the entire public health system in a jurisdiction (e.g., government agencies, elected officials, and non-governmental organizations). – Ensuring that appropriate, needed resources are allocated equitably for the public’s health. – Exhibiting effective and ethical leadership, decision-making, and governance. – Managing financial and human resources effectively. – Employing communications and strategic planning capacities and skills. – Having robust information technology services that are current and meet privacy and security standards. – Being accountable, transparent, and inclusive with all partners and the community in all aspects of practice. 	<p>Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identification and monitoring of innovative solutions and cutting-edge research to advance public health. – Linkages between public health practice and academic/research settings. – Epidemiological studies, health policy analyses and public health systems research. 	<p>Essential public health service #10 focuses on critical organizational infrastructure elements such as strong and ethical leadership, governance, decision-making; communications and planning capacities; strong systems in place; approaching work with accountability, transparency, and inclusiveness; and ensuring that resources are equitably allocated, among others. The revised language was added as a standalone essential service, building off system management concepts from the original language, to emphasize the importance of it across all the public health system.</p> <p>The revised framework moves the concepts of research, identification and monitoring of innovative solutions, linkages between public health practice and academia, health policy analyses, and public health systems research from here to revised EPHS #9.</p>
<p>The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of <u>all people in all communities</u>. To achieve equity, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems, and overall community conditions that enable optimal health for all and seek to remove systemic and structural barriers that have resulted in health inequities. Such barriers include poverty, racism, gender discrimination, ableism, and other forms of oppression. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.</p>		<p>The revised framework adds a new statement to elevate the importance of equity in public health practice. The concept is centered within the framework itself to highlight the overarching goal of protecting and promoting the health of all people in all communities. Equity is embedded in each essential service statement and corresponding language to address the social, structural, environmental, and political determinants of health, and to emphasize how critical authentic and active community engagement is in identifying and solving community health problems.</p>	