

The Ten Essential Public Health Services In Plain English

1. Understand health issues at the state and community levels.
(Or “What’s going on in our state/community? Do we know how healthy we are?”)
2. Identify and respond to health problems or threats.
(Or “Are we ready to respond to health problems or threats? How quickly do we find out about problems? How effective is our response?”)
3. Keep people informed about health issues and healthy choices.
(Or “How well do we keep all people and segments of our State informed about health issues?”)
4. Engage people and organizations in health issues.
(Or “How well do we really get people and organizations engaged in health issues?”)
5. Plan and implement sound health policies.
(Or “What policies promote health in our State? How effective are we in planning and in setting health policies?”)
6. Enforce public health laws and regulations.
(Or “When we enforce health regulations are we up-to-date, technically competent, fair and effective?”)
7. Make sure people receive the medical care they need.
(Or “Are people receiving the medical care they need?”)
8. Maintain a competent public health and medical workforce.
(Or “Do we have a competent public health staff? How can we be sure that our staff stays current?”)
9. Evaluate and improve programs.
(Or “Are we doing any good? Are we doing things right? Are we doing the right things?”)
10. Support innovation and identify and use best practices.
(Or “Are we discovering and using new ways to get the job done?”)