DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Activity Guide

ACTIVITY 7.1

JOB TASK 7.1: ADHERENCE TO RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT

Rule-in-Action Compliance Review

Purpose: Apply job task 7.1 by determining how laws, regulations, and confidentiality requirements guide governmental public health decision-making.

Instructor Context

Governmental public health practice is governed by legal and regulatory frameworks that shape what information can be shared, how data are handled, and what actions are permitted. Governmental public health staff must interpret and apply these rules in real-time situations while protecting public health and maintaining public trust.

Instructions:

Scenario:

A hospital reports a suspected measles case to the local health department. The case investigation team must determine how to handle reporting requirements, data sharing, and communication with schools where exposure may have occurred.

However:

- The school district requests identifiable information about exposed students
- Media outlets request confirmation of the case
- The hospital is uncertain about what information they are legally required to report

Student role: Students are part of a case investigation team ensuring compliance with laws and regulations.

Students will:

- Identify applicable laws, regulations, and confidentiality requirements
- Determine what information can legally be shared and with whom
- Identify documentation requirements
- Outline next steps for lawful response

Debrief questions:

- How do legal frameworks shape governmental public health action?
- What risks arise when rules are unclear or misinterpreted?
- How does compliance support public trust?

ACTIVITY 7.2

JOB TASK 7.2: EDUCATE KEY PARTNERS AND POLICYMAKERS ON THE IMPORTANCE AND IMPACT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Decision-Maker Policy Brief Exercise

Purpose: Apply job task 7.2 by translating public health data into clear, actionable communication for governmental public health decision-makers.

Instructor Context

Governmental public health professionals often communicate with policymakers who may not have technical expertise. Clear, concise communication is essential to inform decisions and support informed policy and program decisions.

Instructions

Scenario:

Local leaders are considering whether to adopt a policy requiring cooling centers to open during extreme heat events. Governmental public health staff have data showing rising heat-related emergency visits in low-income neighborhoods.

Student role: Students are part of a local health department team preparing a policy briefing for decision-makers.

Students will:

- Define the public health problem
- Identify relevant evidence or data
- Draft a concise three-point briefing
- Identify a clear decision request

Presentation:
Groups deliver a 60-second policy briefing.

Debrief questions:

- What information is most important for decision-makers?
- How should evidence be framed for non-technical audiences?
- What role does credibility play in policy communication?

ACTIVITY 7.3

JOB TASK 7.3: COORDINATE WITH GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Interagency Policy Coordination Mapping

Purpose: Apply job task 7.3 by identifying partners and coordination strategies needed for policy implementation.

Instructor Context

Governmental public health policies often require coordination across multiple state, Tribal, local, and territorial agencies. Each agency may have different roles, authority, and priorities, making coordination complex.

Instructions

Scenario:
A city plans to implement a wildfire smoke response plan that includes school activity guidance, workplace safety recommendations, and public air quality messaging.

Student role:
Students are part of a coordination team supporting policy implementation.

Students will:
Create a coordination map that identifies:

- Key agencies and partners
- Roles and responsibilities
- Communication pathways
- Potential coordination challenges

Debrief questions:

- Why is coordination difficult across agencies?
- Where does authority reside during shared initiatives?
- How does coordination improve policy implementation?

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ACTIVITY 7.4

JOB TASK 7.4: ENGAGE WITH GOVERNING BODY(IES) TO ENSURE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Governing Body Engagement Simulation

Purpose: Apply job task 7.4 by preparing and presenting information to a governing body to support decision-making.

Instructor Context

Governing bodies (e.g., boards of health, county commissions, city councils, or elected officials) provide oversight and make decisions about governmental public health programs. Governmental public health professionals must present clear, evidence-based information to support these decisions.

Instructions

Scenario:
The health department plans to expand community vaccination outreach programs. The proposal requires approval from the local board of health, including budget allocation and program justification.

Board members have requested:
- Evidence supporting the expansion
- Estimated costs and staffing needs
- Expected community health benefits

Student role:
Students are part of a governmental public health team presenting to a governing body.

Students will prepare a short briefing that includes:
- Program overview
- Supporting evidence
- Key performance indicators
- A clear decision request

Presentation:
Groups present and respond to questions from the “board.”

Debrief questions:
- What information helps governing bodies make informed decisions?
- How does governance oversight influence program direction?

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Alignment with CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies

Domain 7 Job Task		Related CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies
7.1	Adhere to the rules and regulations that apply to the department (e.g., Rules, Regulations, Statutes, Laws, Policies)	*No direct CEPH MPH Foundational Competency alignment identified.*
7.2	Educate key partners and policymakers on the importance and impact of public health or policies impacting governmental public health systems	**Competency 18:** Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors.
7.3	Coordinate with other local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal government agencies and departments for policy development and implementation	**Competency 12:** Discuss the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence. **Competency 21:** Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health.
7.4	Engage with the agency's governing body(ies) to ensure delivery of public health programs	**Competency 16:** Apply leadership and/or management principles to address a relevant issue.