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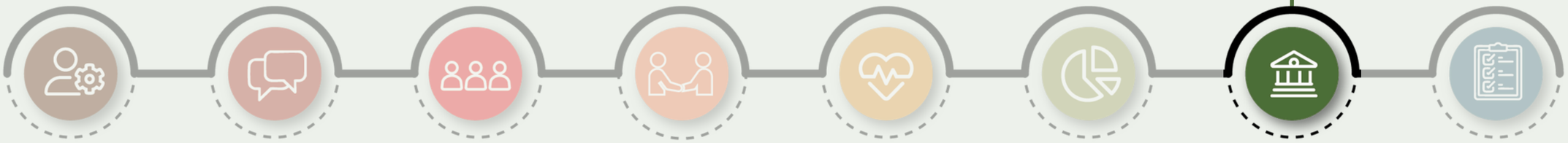
CLASSROOM TO CAREER

Governmental Public Health Toolkit

CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
ASPPH

DOMAIN 7

Policy and Governance



DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Explain why rules and regulations matter for day-to-day governmental public health practice
- Describe how public health professionals inform policy decisions using clear messages and evidence
- Identify ways agencies coordinate across government to develop and implement policy
- Describe how governing bodies influence public health programs and accountability



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DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Topic Overview

Governmental public health practice occurs within a policy and governance environment:

- Agencies prevent disease and respond to emergencies while operating under laws, regulations, and policies
- Policy choices shape governmental public health authority, programs, services, resource allocation, and community health outcomes
- Effective governance supports clarity, coordination, and accountability



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DOMAIN 7

Job Tasks



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DOMAIN 7

7.1

Adhere to the rules and regulations that apply to the department (e.g., Rules, Regulations, Statutes, Laws, Policies)



DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.1 Adhere to the rules and regulations that apply to the department (e.g., Rules, Regulations, Statutes, Laws, Policies).

What this task *involves*

- Following legal and policy requirements that guide public health work
- Ensuring programs and operations meet compliance standards
- Applying rules consistently to protect the public and the agency



DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.1 Adhere to the rules and regulations that apply to the department (e.g., Rules, Regulations, Statutes, Laws, Policies).

On the job, this looks like:

- Using statutes and regulations to guide inspections, investigations, program administration, and enforcement
- Following confidentiality and privacy requirements (e.g., data sharing rules)
- Documenting decisions and actions to meet legal standards
- Reviewing policies before launching programs or communications
- Coordinating with legal counsel or compliance staff when needed

Skills you are practicing:

- Legal and regulatory literacy in public health practice
- Risk management and ethical decision-making
- Attention to detail and documentation
- Professional judgment and accountability
- Translating policy into operational steps



Source: CDC. Public Health Law Program. https://www.cdc.gov/phlp

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.1 Adhere to the rules and regulations that apply to the department (e.g., Rules, Regulations, Statutes, Laws, Policies).

Real-World *Example*

HIPAA + State Public Health Reporting Laws (Notifiable Conditions)

Who uses it: Hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and jurisdictional health departments across the U.S.

What it supports: Legal reporting of communicable diseases and protection of health information while enabling public health action

Sources: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Report a Disease. https://cdphe.colorado.gov/report-a-disease; CDC. National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/sources-definitions/nndss

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.1 Adhere to the rules and regulations that apply to the department (e.g., Rules, Regulations, Statutes, Laws, Policies).

Real-World *Example*

What the job task looks like:

- Apply privacy rules when handling health information (what can be shared, with whom, and why)
- Follow notifiable disease reporting requirements (what must be reported and within what timeframe)
- Document case investigations using approved forms and secure systems
- Coordinate with legal/compliance staff when rules are unclear
- Ensure consistent enforcement of confidentiality and data security practices

Disease surveillance depends on lawful reporting and lawful data handling – public health work would not function without these compliance frameworks.

Sources: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Report a Disease. https://cdphe.colorado.gov/report-a-disease; CDC. National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/sources-definitions/nndss

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE

7.1 Adhere to the rules and regulations that apply to the department (e.g., Rules, Regulations, Statutes, Laws, Policies).

Key points to emphasize:

- Public health authority is grounded in law – rules shape what agencies can do
- Compliance protects communities and strengthens trust and legitimacy
- Rules ensure fairness, consistency, and due process

Instructional focus:

- Emphasize applying rules to real scenarios, not memorizing legal language
- Reinforce that compliance is ongoing and proactive, not just audit-driven
- Highlight trade-offs between rapid action and legal/ethical safeguards

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.1 Adhere to the rules and regulations that apply to the department (e.g., Rules, Regulations, Statutes, Laws, Policies).

CEPH Crosswalk

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.*

Source: CEPH Accreditation Criteria (2024)
https://media.ceph.org/documents/2024.Criteria.pdf

DOMAIN 7

7.2

Educate key partners and policymakers on the importance and impact of public health or policies impacting governmental public health systems

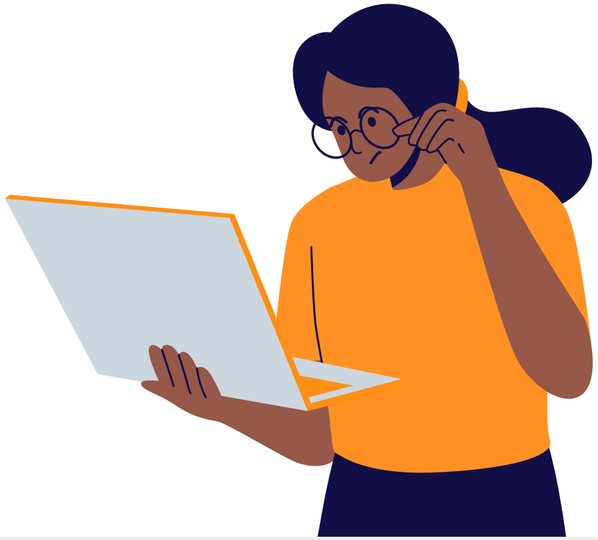


DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.2 Educate key partners and policymakers on the importance and impact of public health or policies impacting governmental public health systems

What this task *involves*

- Communicating public health evidence and impacts to decision-makers
- Building understanding of how policy affects health outcomes
- Supporting informed policy decisions through clear messaging



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC Policy Analytical Framework. https://www.cdc.gov/polaris/php/policy-resources-trainings/policy-analytical

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.2 Educate key partners and policymakers on the importance and impact of public health or policies impacting governmental public health systems

On the job, this looks like:

- Creating short briefs, talking points, or presentations
- Explaining public health data in audience-centered language
- Meeting with partners to answer questions and clarify impacts
- Preparing leadership for hearings, public meetings, or media moments
- Sharing community experiences, program outcomes, and data to illustrate how policy decisions affect population health

Skills you are practicing:

- Translating evidence for real-world decision-making
- Effective, audience-appropriate communication and message framing
- Partner engagement and relationship management
- Community-centered communication
- Policy analysis basics (who benefits, who is burdened, what changes)



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC Policy Analytical Framework. https://www.cdc.gov/polaris/php/policy-resources-trainings/policy-analytical

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.2 Educate key partners and policymakers on the importance and impact of public health or policies impacting governmental public health systems

Real-World *Example*

CDC: Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations

Who uses it: CDC, state immunization programs, healthcare systems, and policymakers

What it supports: Evidence-based vaccine policy recommendations that influence vaccination schedules and coverage decisions

Source: CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Vaccine Recommendations and Guidelines. https://www.cdc.gov/acip/vaccine-recommendations

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.2 Educate key partners and policymakers on the importance and impact of public health or policies impacting governmental public health systems

Real-World *Example*

What the job task looks like:

- Translate evidence into clear messaging for decision-makers
- Brief leaders and partners on changes to vaccine guidance and implications
- Explain how recommendations affect programs
- Respond to questions about effectiveness, safety, and public concerns
- Share data and outcomes to support adoption and implementation

ACIP recommendations drive real policy and practice nationwide – public health professionals routinely help partners understand what the guidance means and how it affects communities.

Source: CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Vaccine Recommendations and Guidelines. https://www.cdc.gov/acip/vaccine-recommendations

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE

7.2 Educate key partners and policymakers on the importance and impact of public health or policies impacting governmental public health systems

Key points to emphasize:

- Policymakers need clarity: what's the problem, what's the impact, what's the ask
- Education is not advocacy in a partisan sense – it's providing public health expertise
- Effective communication combines data with real community implications

Instructional focus:

- Emphasize plain language, relevance, and audience needs
- Reinforce that credibility depends on accuracy, transparency, and neutrality
- Highlight trade-offs between urgency and completeness of evidence

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.2 Educate key partners and policymakers on the importance and impact of public health or policies impacting governmental public health systems

CEPH Crosswalk

Domain 7 Job Task	Related CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies
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.

Source: CEPH Accreditation Criteria (2024)
https://media.ceph.org/documents/2024.Criteria.pdf

DOMAIN 7

7.3

Coordinate with other local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal government agencies and departments for policy development and implementation

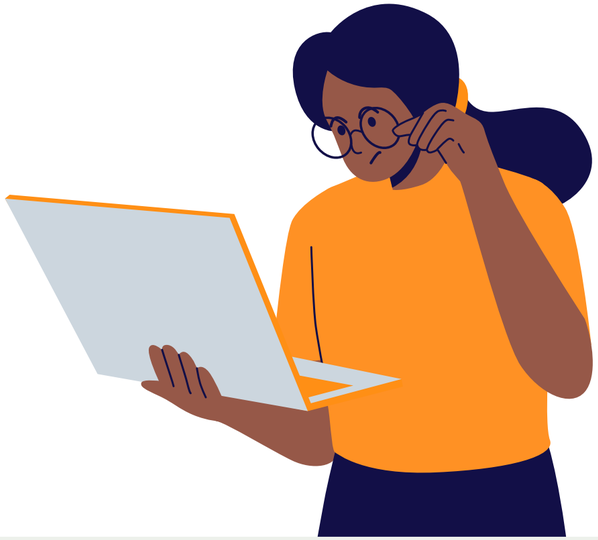


DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.3 Coordinate with other local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal government agencies and departments for policy development and implementation

What this task *involves*

- Working across agencies to develop, align, and implement policies
- Coordinating roles, responsibilities, and timelines across partners
- Reducing duplication and ensuring consistent public health action



Source: Public Health Accreditation Board. All Hands on Deck: Addressing Health and Health Equity through Cross-sector Collaboration. https://phaboard.org/reports/all-hands-on-deck-addressing-health-and-health-equity-through-cross-sector-collaboration/

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.3 Coordinate with other local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal government agencies and departments for policy development and implementation

On the job, this looks like:

- Participating in interagency workgroups and policy meetings
- Aligning guidance across departments (public health, education, EMS, housing)
- Coordinating shared implementation plans and communications
- Resolving conflicts between policies, timelines, or agency roles
- Tracking progress and supporting accountability across partners

Skills you are practicing:

- Intergovernmental collaboration and diplomacy
- Systems thinking and coordination
- Project management and facilitation
- Negotiation and shared decision-making
- Adapting communication for different professional audiences



Source: Public Health Accreditation Board. All Hands on Deck: Addressing Health and Health Equity through Cross-sector Collaboration. https://phaboard.org/reports/all-hands-on-deck-addressing-health-and-health-equity-through-cross-sector-collaboration/

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.3 Coordinate with other local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal government agencies and departments for policy development and implementation

Real-World *Example*

National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS)

Who uses it: Local/state health departments, emergency management, hospitals, EMS, and federal partners

What it supports: Coordinated policy and operational response across agencies during emergencies

Source: FEMA. National Incident Management System (NIMS). https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.3 Coordinate with other local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal government agencies and departments for policy development and implementation

Real-World *Example*

What the job task looks like:

- Align roles and responsibilities across agencies using a shared structure
- Coordinate planning meetings and shared incident objectives
- Ensure consistent public messaging across departments and partners
- Track tasks, timelines, and interagency dependencies
- Document decisions and support after-action improvements

During emergencies, public health policy decisions must be coordinated across agencies – ICS/NIMS is a real system used nationwide to make that possible.

Source: FEMA. National Incident Management System (NIMS). https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE

7.3 Coordinate with other local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal government agencies and departments for policy development and implementation

Key points to emphasize:

- Public health policy implementation is rarely just one agency's job
- Coordination affects consistency, speed, and balanced outcomes
- Interagency relationships are infrastructure – built over time, used in crises

Instructional focus:

- Emphasize roles/responsibilities and shared accountability, not hierarchy
- Reinforce that coordination requires listening and compromise
- Highlight trade-offs between local flexibility and statewide consistency

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.3 Coordinate with other local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal government agencies and departments for policy development and implementation.

CEPH Crosswalk

Domain 7 Job Task	Related CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies
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.

Source: CEPH Accreditation Criteria (2024)
https://media.ceph.org/documents/2024.Criteria.pdf

DOMAIN 7

7.4

Engage with the agency’s governing body(ies) to ensure delivery of public health programs

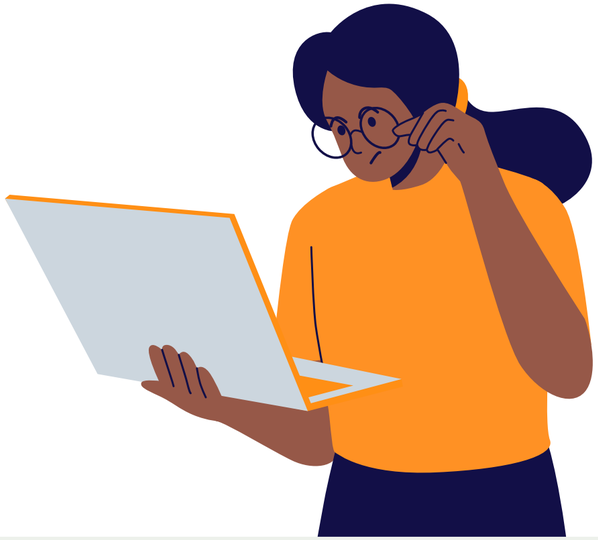


DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.4 Engage with the agency's governing body(ies) to ensure delivery of public health programs

What this task *involves*

- Working with boards, councils, commissions, or oversight bodies
- Providing updates, accountability, and recommendations
- Supporting governance decisions that enable effective governmental public health programs and services



Source: National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH). *The Role of Local Boards of Health.* https://www.nalboh.org

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.4 Engage with the agency's governing body(ies) to ensure delivery of public health programs

On the job, this looks like:

- Preparing reports and presentations for governing body meetings
- Responding to questions about program performance, budgets, and community needs
- Supporting approvals (plans, contracts, budgets, emergency actions)
- Communicating risks, trade-offs, and recommended actions
- Building trust through transparency and follow-through

Skills you are practicing:

- Public-facing communication and professionalism
- Governance and accountability awareness
- Data storytelling and performance reporting
- Strategic thinking and decision support
- Partner management and relationship-building



Source: American Public Health Association (APHA). 10 Essential Public Health Services. https://www.apha.org/what-is-public-health/10-essential-public-health-services

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.4 Engage with the agency's governing body(ies) to ensure delivery of public health programs

Real-World *Example*

Local Boards of Health (e.g., County/City Board of Health Meetings & Approvals)

Who uses it: Local health departments and boards of health across the U.S.

What it supports: Governance oversight, policy adoption, budget decisions, and public accountability for health department services

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Board of Health Meetings. https://cdphe.colorado.gov/board-of-health/meetings**; National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH). The Role of Local Boards of Health.** https://www.nalboh.org

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.4 Engage with the agency's governing body(ies) to ensure delivery of public health programs

Real-World *Example*

What the job task looks like:

- Prepare briefings on program performance, community needs, and service gaps
- Present recommendations for policy changes or new program directions
- Support approvals for contracts, emergency orders, or program expansions
- Respond to public comments and questions during meetings
- Provide follow-up reporting and progress updates to maintain trust and accountability

Boards of health directly influence what programs are delivered and how public health authority is exercised – successful public health work requires ongoing governance engagement.

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Board of Health Meetings. https://cdphe.colorado.gov/board-of-health/meetings**; National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH). The Role of Local Boards of Health.** https://www.nalboh.org

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE

7.4 Engage with the agency's governing body(ies) to ensure delivery of public health programs

Key points to emphasize:

- Governing bodies shape resources, authority, and public accountability
- Engagement is about transparency and trust – not just getting approval
- Good governance relationships strengthen public health readiness and sustainability

Instructional focus:

- Emphasize concise reporting and clear decision asks
- Reinforce that governing body engagement is routine, not only crisis-based
- Highlight trade-offs between public pressure, evidence, and operational constraints

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

7.4 Engage with the agency's governing body(ies) to ensure delivery of public health programs

CEPH Crosswalk

Domain 7 Job Task	Related CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies
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.

Source: CEPH Accreditation Criteria (2024)
https://media.ceph.org/documents/2024.Criteria.pdf

DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Discussion Prompt

In pairs or small groups:

1. **Rules and procedures:** What rules/policies might shape what the agency can do quickly (e.g., spending, data sharing, communication approvals)?
2. **Briefing decision-makers:** What are the top three points you would include in a 60-second update to a decision-maker?
3. **Coordination:** Which partners must be aligned for implementation, and what could go wrong if they're not?
4. **Accountability:** What are 2-3 indicators you would track to show progress (who is reached/served)?



DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Key Takeaways

Wrap-up

- Public health practice happens within rules and policies
- Governmental public health professionals translate evidence to support informed decision-making and public health action
- Coordination across agencies supports consistent, effective implementation
- Governance structures shape priorities, oversight, and accountability



DOMAIN 7 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Next Steps

Wrap-up

- In your next practicum/internship, notice: Who approves decisions? What rules guide action? How is progress reported?
- Practice a “policy briefing”: write a 3-bullet update on a public health issue for a non-technical audience



Q & A



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