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Environmental Health Resources by Essential Services

Editor's Note: NEHA strives to provide up-to-date and relevant information on environmental health and to build partnerships in the profession. In pursuit of these goals, we feature a column from the Environmental Health Services Branch (EHSB) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in every issue of the *Journal*.

In these columns, EHSB and guest authors share insights and information about environmental health programs, trends, issues, and resources. The conclusions in this article are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of CDC.

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides tools and guidance, training, and research for practitioners and programs delivering environmental health services in states, tribes, localities, and territories. In this column we outline some of our resources organized by the 10 Essential Environmental Public Health Services. These services identify the actions necessary to protect and improve environmental public health and are adapted from the 10 Essential Public Health Services (Figure 1). These tools can help your program fill performance gaps and contribute to larger performance improvement efforts such as voluntary public health department accreditation.

1. **Monitor environmental and health status to identify and solve community environmental public health problems.**
 - National Environmental Assessment Reporting System: Captures environmental assessment data from food-borne illness outbreaks to help prevent

outbreaks associated with restaurants and other food venues. Is your jurisdiction registered?

- Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health: Helps programs work with communities to identify and address local environmental health issues.
2. **Diagnose and investigate environmental public health problems and health hazards in the community.**
 - *Integrated Pest Management: Conducting Urban Rodent Surveys*: Updates CDC's *Urban Rodent Surveys Manual*, including information about integrated pest management.
 - Network for Aquatic Facility Inspection Surveillance: Receives aquatic facility inspection data collected by environmental health practitioners when assessing the operation and maintenance of public aquatic facilities.
 3. **Inform, educate, and empower people about environmental public health issues.**

- Drinking Water Advisory Communication Toolbox: Provides resources to help communities with all phases of water advisories including guidance, recommendations, instructions, templates, and other tools.
 - Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net) Plain Language Study Findings: Outlines food safety study findings and recommendations from our research program to identify environmental causes of outbreaks in the restaurant setting.
4. **Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve environmental health problems.**
 - *Emergency Water Supply Planning Guide for Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities*: Summarizes how to develop a plan to prepare for, respond to, and recover from interruptions in the normal water supply at healthcare facilities.
 - Environmental Public Health Performance Standards (EnvPHPS) Assessment Toolkit: Assists with preparing for, conducting, and acting upon your EnvPHPS assessment with tools such as a facilitator guide, response analysis tool, report templates, and more.
 5. **Develop policies and plans that support individual and community environmental public health efforts.**
 - *When Every Drop Counts: Protecting Public Health During Drought Conditions—A Guide for Public Health Professionals*: Explains how public health professionals can prepare for drought in their community.
 - *Guidance on Microbial Contamination in Previously Flooded Outdoor Areas*:

FIGURE 1

Ten Services Adapted From the 10 Essential Public Health Services That Identify Actions Necessary to Protect and Improve Environmental Public Health



These and other resources are available at www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/10-essential-services/resources.html.



- Assists with assessing the public health risks for using areas after a flood with potential exposure to microbial contamination.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect environmental public health and ensure safety.

Note: CDC's Environmental Health Services Branch (EHSB) is not a regulatory agency. The following EHSB resources may be useful for agencies responsible for enforcing laws and regulations.

 - Model Aquatic Health Code: Provides free, science-based guidelines to help reduce risk for waterborne illness outbreaks, drowning, and chemical poisoning at public pools and other aquatic venues.
 - Food Safety Prevention Status Report: Reports on state adoption of selected foodborne disease related provisions from the 2013 Food and Drug Administration *Food Code* with a new food safety indicator.

7. Link people to needed environmental public health services and assure the provision of environmental public health services when otherwise unavailable.
 - Safe Water for Community Health: Recommends ways to strengthen the performance of your drinking water program to address problems with wells and other private drinking water sources in your community.
8. Assure a competent environmental public health workforce.
 - e-Learning on Environmental Assessment of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks: Teaches users to conduct environmental assessments as part of outbreak investigations and allows them to practice new skills in an interactive, virtual learning environment.
 - Environmental Public Health Online Courses: Offers a collection of 15 e-learning courses on a variety of environmental health topics.

- Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response: Helps prepare environmental health practitioners and other emergency response personnel by providing them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to address the environmental health impacts of emergencies and disasters.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based environmental public health services.
 - EnvPHPS: Provides standards to improve delivery of the 10 Essential Environmental Public Health Services in your community.
 - *Improving Environmental Public Health Services Performance to Meet Community Needs*: Explores approaches for improving and aligning programs with broader public health department initiatives.
 10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to environmental public health problems.
 - EHS-Net: Conducts research to identify environmental causes of outbreaks in the restaurant setting.

CDC's EHSB hopes you find these tools informative and helpful in delivering quality services to your community. To find out more about these and other resources, please visit www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs. 🐼

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