

10 Essential Public Health Services and Examples of Services

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems

- Conduct regular community health assessments addressing issues such as mental health (e.g. depression), physical health (e.g. obesity), and environmental health (e.g. water supply)

⇒ *Example of benefit:* Allows benefit managers to more easily identify employee health risks and design appropriate health plans

2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community

- Investigate disease outbreaks such as food poisoning or water-borne illnesses
- Alert public to influenza outbreaks and recommend strategies to reduce health threat
- Develop emergency response plans for local, state and/or national health threats

⇒ *Example of benefit:* Alerts private sector to possible illnesses that may affect childcare, absences, sales or services

3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues

- Distribute information via radio, television, print to inform community of the risks of behaviors such as smoking, and the availability of prevention or treatment programs
- Provide health education programs and materials in schools

⇒ *Example of benefit:* Assists private sector in educating individuals concerning health improvements such as smoking cessation, healthy eating and the benefits of exercise

4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems

- Provide a web site listing community health resources and organizations
- Establish community partnerships with business leaders and health care providers to address local health needs

⇒ *Example of benefit:* Builds community relationships to assist businesses during crisis periods, and reduce costs of overall health promotion

5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts

- Contribute research and support to develop model health policies (e.g. indoor clean air act)

⇒ *Example of benefit:* Potentially decreases work-related injury, worker compensation claims, absenteeism and illness

6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety

- Provide enforcement activities in areas such as protection of drinking water, regulation of care provided in health care facilities, and laws governing sale of alcohol to minors

⇒ *Example of benefit:* Enforces clean working environments and communities, protecting employers and employees, and reducing the risk of illnesses that could damage business operations (e.g. food contamination in processing plants)

7. Link individuals to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable

- Develop initiatives to enroll eligible beneficiaries in programs such as Medicare, Medicaid
- Encourage culturally and linguistically appropriate staff for diverse populations

⇒ *Example of benefit:* Provides health care to employees who may not otherwise be able to afford service, decreasing illness and absenteeism

8. Assure a competent public and personal health care work force

- Maintain public health workforce standards, including processes for licensure/credentialing
- Identify gaps in local health care workforce

⇒ *Example of benefit:* Ensures safe, high quality health care is available to business and residential community members

9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services

- Evaluate population-based services such as immunizations to ensure progress toward established goals

⇒ *Example of benefit:* Improves health programs specific to each community, increasing the health of the work force

10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

- Identify public health best practices to use as models for organization and service delivery
- Develop relationships with academic institutions to conduct epidemiological or health policy research

⇒ *Example of benefit:* Creates opportunity to share data, improve community and national services, and decrease health costs