

Why Public Health Loves SB 194 (Public Health Act of 2008)

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Public Health: It Ain't What It Used to Be

The Public Health Act of 2008:

- Provides an updated definition of public health.
- Links public health to health care reform.
- Recognizes the value of public health.
- Creates a system for public health.
- Leads to standards for public health.



What is public health?

“The public health system reduces health care costs by preventing disease and injury, promoting healthy behavior, and reducing the incidents of chronic disease and conditions. Thus, the public health system is a critical part of health care reform.” SB 194



Core Public Health

Core public health shall include, but need not be limited to:

1. Assessment of health status and health risks
2. Development of policies to protect and promote health
3. Assurance of the provision of Essential Public Health Services. SB 194



Public Health is For Everyone, Every Day, Everywhere

- “Each community in Colorado should provide high-quality public health services regardless of its location.” SB 194



The 10 Essential Services of Public Health



Defined in SB 194:

1. Monitor Health Status.
2. Investigate Health Problems and Hazards
3. Inform and Educate
4. Mobilize others to solve health problems
5. Develop policies and programs



10 Essential Services, Cont.



6. Enforce laws
7. Link individuals to health services
8. Maintain a competent workforce
9. Evaluate services
10. Contribute to innovation and research



The Public Health System

SB 194:

1. Empowers the State Board of Health
2. Strengthens the partnerships among local agencies and with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
3. Leads to redefined core services, standards and qualifications of directors
4. Enhances the link to county elected officials



Hard Work Ahead



“You can’t plow the field by turning it over in your mind”

-Old Irish Saying (found on an Irish pub menu)

You can’t improve public health in Colorado without hard work.

