

# **COLORADO STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q. What is the Board of Health and what are its powers and duties?**

A. The State Board of Health was established by act of Colorado's First General Assembly on March 22, 1877. Its nine members are appointed by the Governor to represent the people of the state. By statute, the primary duties of the Board are:

- To adopt or revise standards, rules and regulations to administer and enforce the public health laws of the state;
- To determine general policies to be followed in administering and enforcing the public health laws, standards, rule and regulations;
- To act in an advisory capacity to the executive director of the Department of Public Health and Environment on matters pertaining to public health;
- To establish and appoint special advisory committees when necessary to advise and confer with the Board concerning the public health aspects of any business, profession or industry within the state.
- To monitor the operation and effectiveness of tobacco settlement programs that receive appropriations from moneys received by the state pursuant to the master settlement agreement.
- To approve grants for tobacco education, prevention and cessation programs; cancer, cardiovascular disease and chronic pulmonary disease programs, including those in underrepresented populations; nurse home visitor programs; and HIV and AIDS prevention programs.

**Q. How is the Board organized?**

A. Appointments to the nine-member Board are made by the Governor, with consent of the Senate, for four-year terms, so that no business or professional group constitutes a majority and so that no more than five members are of the same political party. One member is appointed from each of the state's seven congressional districts and two members from the state at large. It is also required by law that one Board member must be a county commissioner. Terms of service are staggered to assure both continuity and fresh perspective.

**Q. How does the Board perform its duties?**

A. The Board holds regular monthly meetings, and special meetings as needed, to review and discuss proposed new regulations, revisions to existing regulations, and other public health issues presented by the Department of Public Health and Environment, advisory committees or work groups. The Board conducts rule-making hearings to receive comments from the public and take action on proposed rules and regulations. Public forums and reports/briefings on public health issues are also used in order to advise the executive director and make policy recommendations.

The Board of Health staff, part of the Department's Office of Legal and Regulatory Affairs in the Executive Director's Office, performs administrative functions for the State Board of Health to enable it to fulfill its statutory duties; and serves as primary liaison between the Board of Health and the executive director, department managers and staff, other agencies/organizations, and the public at large. The staff ensures that all statutory requirements for rule-making are met, provides information to the public and interested parties regarding Board of Health actions, develops agendas and rule-making schedules, keeps records and performs other administrative duties on behalf of the Board.

Board meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month, commencing at 10 a.m., at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in Denver, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Sabin Conference Room, Building A, First Floor.

**Q. What types of rules and regulations are adopted by the Board?**

A. The Board has authority for adopting rules concerning a wide variety of important public health matters including: licensing standards for hospitals and health facilities; regulations pertaining to epidemic and communicable disease control; regulations pertaining to immunization of infants and children; regulations pertaining to the reporting, prevention and control of AIDS, HIV related illness and HIV infection; regulations pertaining to the detection, monitoring and investigation of environmental and chronic diseases; regulations pertaining to emergency medical services and the statewide trauma system; rules to assure that hospitals, local health departments, regional trauma advisory councils and managed care organizations are prepared for a bioterrorist event or an emergency epidemic; sanitary standards for such facilities as retail food establishments, child care centers, schools, recreational sites and penal institutions; rules for the Tobacco Education, Prevention and Cessation Grant Program, the Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Chronic Pulmonary Disease Grant Program, the Health Disparities Grant Program, the Colorado HIV and AIDS Prevention Grant Program and the Nurse Home Visitor Program; rules for the Colorado Cancer Drug Repository Program; rules pertaining to the newborn screening program; rules pertaining to testing for alcohol and other drugs; rules pertaining to swimming pools and natural swimming areas; radiation control regulations; and rules governing the administration of Colorado's vital statistics system.

**Q. Who enforces regulations adopted by the Board?**

A. Rules and regulations adopted by the Board are enforced by staff of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and local health agencies.

**Q. How can the public become involved in the work of the Board?**

A. All Board of Health meetings are open to the public. Individuals can participate in the rule-making process by providing written comments to the Board prior to the rule-making hearing or by presenting oral comments at the rule-making hearing. Interested parties also have the opportunity to work with the Department staff and advisory committees in the process of developing the proposed rules/revisions before they are

presented to the Board of Health for formal rule-making. In addition, time is allowed at the beginning of each meeting for public comments regarding any public health issues that are not on the agenda for rule-making. Individuals may contact the Board of Health staff or Board of Health members to express concerns or ask questions about issues before the Board.

**Q. How do I obtain meeting agendas or more information about the Board?**

A. Meeting agendas, hearing notices and proposed rules, minutes, monthly reports, the roster of Board members and other information about the Board are available on the Board's Web site at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/bh/index.html> . Or, contact the Board of Health Office at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246, 303-692-3464, or send e-mail to: [linda.shearman@state.co.us](mailto:linda.shearman@state.co.us) .

**Q. Who do I contact if I am interested in becoming a Board member?**

A. An application form is available through the Governor's Office and is required for consideration of any appointment. A directory of boards and commissions vacancies and a downloadable application form are available on the Governor's Boards and Commissions Web site at <http://www.colorado.gov/governor/boards-commission.html> . Or, contact the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions at (303) 866-6380.

**Q. Where are adopted rules and public hearing notices officially published?**

A. Rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Health are published in *The Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR), the official publication of all the administrative rules of the State of Colorado. The Colorado Secretary of State compiles the administrative rules of all the executive agencies of the state of Colorado for publication in the CCR. The CCR is published by [LexisNexis](#) pursuant to an agreement with the Secretary of State. This print edition is currently the only official source of Colorado's administrative regulations. In the near future, the Code and Register can also be accessed from the Secretary of State's Web site at <http://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/Welcome.do>. A companion publication, *The Colorado Register*, is published monthly throughout the year and contains copies of all new or modified rules and the Attorney General Opinions thereon, and copies of notices of all proposed rule-making. These publications can be purchased from [LexisNexis](#) (1-800-223-1940) or can be examined at designated public libraries throughout the state and at the Department of Public Health and Environment Office of Legal and Regulatory Affairs.

Rules and regulations (unofficial copies) adopted by the Board of Health and the other rulemaking agencies of the Department of Public Health and Environment can be accessed on the Department's Web site at [www.cdphe.state.co.us](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us), under "Regulations."