



Public Health and Information Sharing Toolkit

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ASTHO LEGAL PREPAREDNESS SERIES Public Health & Information Sharing Toolkit

Overview of ASTHO Public Health & Information Sharing Toolkit

The Public Health & Information Sharing (PH&IS) Toolkit addresses key concepts regarding public health agencies' authority to collect, use, and share information to prepare and respond to a public health emergency. This toolkit addresses information sharing issues in general and when information sharing involves the workplace or law enforcement. The toolkit's component documents are designed to assist in education, training, and planning activities to prepare for emergencies, as well as to serve as a quick reference resource during an emergency response to an event. The *PH&IS Toolkit* is one of six toolkits in ASTHO's Legal Preparedness Series. Please [visit this page](#) for additional background on the project and the other toolkits.

Intended Audiences

These documents are specifically designed to address the different needs of discrete audiences within a state health agency, including:

- Executive overviews and fact sheets that are tailored to state health officers, agency directors, or other senior governmental officials.
- Fact sheets, issue briefs, state analysis guides, and resource materials to help preparedness directors and other programmatic staff and privacy officers understand and gain more in-depth knowledge about concepts and legal issues.
- Fact sheets about federal laws and regulations and the array of state laws that apply to public health information sharing; issue briefs; state analysis guides; and citations within the resource materials that legal counsel can use as a basis from which to conduct additional research and analyze their state's authorities on these issues.

Public Health & Information Sharing Toolkit Contents

All documents are listed alphabetically within each document category

Executive Overviews

One-page snapshots of key concepts and issues

- [Public Health and Employee Information](#)
- [Public Health and Information Sharing Key Issues](#)

Fact Sheets

Short documents addressing fundamental issues or legal authorities

- [Americans with Disabilities Act](#)
- [Public Health Legal Authorities to Collect, Use, Share, and Protect Information](#)

Issue Briefs

In-depth information and analyses of fundamental issues

- [Authorities and Limitations in Sharing Information Between Public Health Agencies and Law Enforcement](#)
- [Public Health Agencies as Employers: Obtaining and Using Employee Health Information for Preparedness Planning and Response](#)
- [Public Health Collection, Use, Sharing, and Protection of Information](#)

State Analysis Guides

Aids to assist states in identifying and analyzing their own statutes, regulations, and policies

- [Public Health and Employee Information \(DOC\)](#)
- [Public Health Authorities and Information Sharing \(DOC\)](#)
- [Public Health Information Sharing with Law Enforcement \(DOC\)](#)

Current Issues and Updates

Periodic updates on new and evolving issues

- No current issues and updates in the toolkit at this time

Resource Materials

Bibliographies and links to key agencies, organizations, laws, and other documents

- [Public Health and Information Sharing Supplemental Materials](#)

Note: This document was compiled from April–November 2012 and reflects the laws and programs current then. It reflects only portions of the laws relevant to public health emergencies and is not intended to be exhaustive of all relevant legal authority. This resource is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for professional legal or other advice. The document was funded by CDC Award No. 1U38HM000454 to the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; Subcontractor Subcontractor University of Michigan School of Public Health, Network for Public Health Law – Mid-States Region.

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