Public health systems are commonly defined as “all public, private, and voluntary entities that contribute to the delivery of essential public health services within a jurisdiction.” This concept ensures that all entities’ contributions to the health and well-being of the community or state are recognized in assessing the provision of public health services.

**THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities.

- **Prevent and control disease and injury**
- **Promote healthy behaviors**
- **Build a healthy and supportive environment**
- **Assure the quality and safety of health care**
- **Assure the safety and quality of public health and environmental services**
- **Build a diverse and informed workforce**
- **Utilize legal and regulatory tools**
- **Investigate, assess, and address health threats and issues**
- **Conduct surveys and evaluations**
- **Communicate, educate, and address health literacy and engagement**

**Board of Health Purpose**

"Jurisdiction over public health matters within its designated geographic area"

- Iowa Code Chapter 137
To address core public health functions, local Boards of Health can:

- Employ persons as necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties
- Engage in joint operations by contracting with colleges and universities, the state department, other public, private, and nonprofit agencies and individuals to provide personal and population-based public health services; or
- Form a district health department to provide personal and population-based public health services.

County-based vs. Health-system based Public Health Agencies

**County-based agencies**
- governed by the Local Board of Health (LBOH).
  - LBOH are responsible for hiring and firing public health employees and for making other employment related decisions regarding these staff.

**Health-system based agencies**
- governed by their Board of Directors or Board of Trustees.
- LBOH acts in an advisory capacity.