

CHAPTER 408**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING****§1961. Public Health Nursing Program**

There is established within the Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health, the Public Health Nursing Program. [PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §2 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 516 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 502, §D2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 689, §B6 (REV).

§1962. Director

The Director of the Public Health Nursing Program must be licensed as a registered nurse in the State and shall have education and experience in community health nursing. [PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 516 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 785, §B86 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 502, §D3 (AMD).

§1963. Responsibilities of the Public Health Nursing Program**(CONTAINS TEXT WITH VARYING EFFECTIVE DATES)**

The Public Health Nursing Program has the following responsibilities: [PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §4 (AMD).]

1. Establish standards. To establish standards for the following programs carried out by the department pursuant to state or federal laws or regulations:

- A. Community nursing services in communicable diseases; [PL 1977, c. 516 (NEW).]
 - B. Programs for promoting the health of mothers and children; and [PL 1977, c. 516 (NEW).]
 - C. School health screening, to be done in cooperation with the Department of Education; [PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §4 (AMD).]
- [PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §4 (AMD).]

2. Information. To inform community nursing agencies of the standards in subsection 1; [PL 1977, c. 516 (NEW).]

3. Provide nursing services. To provide nursing services in communities that lack these services or in which these services are inadequate according to established standards. The Public Health Nursing Program shall provide to communities within the State nursing services, including, but not limited to:

- A. Treatment of and support for drug-affected babies and their parents; [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Assistance with public health emergencies, including, but not limited to, outbreaks of infectious disease, natural disasters and bioterrorist attacks; [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- C. Early identification of children at risk of potential adverse childhood experiences to prevent future mental health and physical health issues; [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]
- D. Support for chronic disease management to prevent costly hospitalizations and assistance to persons with chronic diseases who may not have health coverage; [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

E. Early identification of persons at risk of domestic violence and referrals to community-based services as appropriate to those persons; [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

F. Support for the public health infrastructure under chapter 152, including, but not limited to, the district coordinating councils for public health as defined in section 411, subsection 3 and local public health officers and the creation and implementation of district public health improvement plans; [RR 2017, c. 1, §12 (COR).]

G. Assistance with the public health assessment and planning responsibilities of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and hospitals located within the State; [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

H. Support and education for prenatal clients, parents and newborn infants who are at risk for health challenges; [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

I. **(TEXT EFFECTIVE UNTIL 7/01/26)** Support for activities of programs within the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, including, but not limited to, the Universal Childhood Immunization Program under section 1066 and environmental health and tuberculosis programs; [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

I. **(TEXT EFFECTIVE 7/01/26)** Support for activities of programs within the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, including, but not limited to, the Universal Immunization Program under section 1066 and environmental health and tuberculosis programs; [PL 2025, c. 440, §15 (AMD); PL 2025, c. 440, §17 (AFF).]

J. Support for activities of programs that serve refugee and immigrant health services programs; and [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

K. Support for the assessment of unmet health needs in the elderly population, especially in rural areas, and assisting elderly persons in finding and receiving medical or community-based services; and [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[RR 2017, c. 1, §12 (COR); PL 2025, c. 440, §15 (AMD); PL 2025, c. 440, §17 (AFF).]

4. Provide technical assistance. To provide technical assistance to school health nurses, prenatal clinics, community immunization clinics and child health conferences and groups seeking to establish clinics and conferences.

[PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. D, §4 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 516 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §A75 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 502, §D4 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §1 (AMD). RR 2017, c. 1, §12 (COR). PL 2025, c. 440, §15 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 440, §17 (AFF).

§1964. Required staffing

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and without further approval or justification, the department shall promptly fill all public health nurse positions within the Public Health Nursing Program for which funding is provided. [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

The department shall widely post public notices for public health nurse vacancies under this section on publicly accessible state websites and in other appropriate locations. Public notice must be posted within 30 days of the effective date of this section for vacancies then existing and within 30 days of each subsequent vacancy that occurs. The department shall recruit and hire qualified individuals for these vacant positions. [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. NN, §1 (AMD).

§1965. Required office space; support for staff

The department shall provide office space and support services on a regional basis for the staff of the Public Health Nursing Program to the full extent of required staffing provided in section 1964 in order to derive the maximum benefit from the professional skills of public health nursing staff and to minimize unnecessary driving time. [PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 312, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).

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