

**Local Health Department Lunch and Learn Orientation Webinar
Environmental Health Program**

**Presented by Brad Cochran, Director for the Office of Environmental Health Services,
Public Health Sanitation Division
November 18, 2015**

Questions & Answers

Question #1

Dr. Kilkenny from Cabell-Huntington Health Department: Can I get some clarification on when the local health jurisdiction begins on municipal water supply?

Answer #1

Brad: Basically if there is a public water issue, I can probably get some better clarification on this from the public water folks. However, at this point in time, if there is an issue with the public water system, you guys may be involved with boil water notices to some degree. Local Health Departments (LHDs) have authority under one of our policies if the water system has not done so. That rarely happens and I don't know that it has ever happened to my knowledge on a big municipality system; however, most of the jurisdictions for local health in public water systems are going to be those that are on their own public water supply. I will ask our environmental engineering folks and legal folks to get a more definite answer on the public water systems. You may get notified of a complaint that there are issues. If that is the case, what we normally have the local health departments do is get the information and then contact one of our local district offices. All of our local district offices have environmental engineers and they will handle the system that has a complaint related to it. But again, you are probably going to be the contact person initially, but more than likely you are not going to have a lot of particular involvement.

After further discussion with the Environmental Engineering Division (EED), OEHS offers further clarification regarding LHD jurisdiction of public water supplies. Two policy procedures will help clarify a LHD jurisdiction of a public water supply. DW-23 Boil Water Notices (BWN) for Public Water Systems which provides the LHD role in the issuance of a BWN and DW-18 Guidance for Public Facilities Affected by BWNs, which includes many facilities that are permitted by a LHD. Also, if a LHD finds what they think is unregulated non-community public water systems, the LHD should contact the District Engineer.

Question #2

Bill Ours from Hardy County Health Department: Are the environmental health indicators supposed to start being monitored in January or what is that process?

Answer #2

Brad: At this point in time, we were asked to provide indicators to you all related to how we can start tracking environmental programs within WV. I don't think that has been officially finalized yet through the Bureau and Center for Local Health in at least talking to our folks. I do not have a definite on that yet because I do not know. I know there have been questions that have come up in the last week or so. I will try to get that documented as fast as we can and get it out to you all.

Question #3

Bill Ours from Hardy County Health Department: What is the average home owner's exam fee to install their own septic system?

Answer #3

Brad: We see them ranging anywhere from \$10 to \$25

Question #4

Stephanie Shoemaker from Hampshire County Health Department: In HealthSpace, what parts are they required to be using at this point?

Answer #4

Brad: That is yet to be determined as well. Obviously, we have an electronic reporting system that is out there. I don't know if the Bureau is looking to make that mandatory at this point. I know they want things reported electronically because it is easier to get information that way. I think that is where it is leaning but I don't have a definite answer on that yet as well.

Question #5

Stephanie Shoemaker from Hampshire County Health Department: Are there currently monthly reports that you are requiring from sanitarians?

Answer #5

Brad: There is a policy and procedure that has been out there for years that is called A17 or A16 that requires a monthly report to be submitted. We brought that back up recently at one of our liaison meetings after some discussion arose on it from some Bureau folks. And looking on how we report, we are making some minor changes to that report and it may come down that it needs to be submitted in a format that is compatible with HealthSpace. I don't know that for sure yet. Again, those are all still being worked out. I will say that if you are using HealthSpace that report is automatically generated for you.