In general, the following is a brief summary of the powers and duties of a Board of Health, as established by Illinois statute (55 ILCS 5/5-20):

- To organize the Board, set meetings and meet at least four times a year; and to elect officers for the Board and determine the length of terms.

- To make and adopt rules for personnel policies, local health department policies regarding program services, etc., and to recommend ordinances to the County Board.

- To publish an annual report.

- To enforce and observe state laws and local ordinances regarding preservation of public health.

- To investigate contagious infectious disease.

- To give professional advice.

- To appoint an executive officer for the health department and, if this person is not a physician, to obtain medical supervision for the health department programs.

- To hire other Health Department employees as needed.

- To prescribe powers and duties of employees, and to fix compensation.

- To submit an annual budget to the County Board.

- To establish and carry out mental health programs and services.

- To consult with all other private and public health agencies for the most efficient delivery of services.
ABOUT LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH

The Peoria County Board of Health’s role or authority can be policy-making, regulatory, administrative, or advisory. Members are appointed based on Illinois State Statute requirements. Appointments are for three year staggered terms with the exception of the County Board Liaison, who is appointed on a yearly basis. Board of Health members serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Board functions may include but are not limited to:
• making recommendations on public health policies and rules;
• proposing or enacting specific public health policies or ordinances to the County Board;
• proposing budget allocations;
• recruiting, supervising, and evaluating the chief officer of the Health Department;
• enacting and enforcing local regulations; and
• acting as a public health agent in the community.

WHY BOARDS OF HEALTH MATTER

Local boards of health are important because they monitor the activities of the health department, a crucial resource that protects and promotes community health. Local boards of health ensure that the health department delivers necessary services to the community. They provide oversight. This means they may approve or set budgets, help assess the health status or particular health needs of a population, and develop policies and programs to keep the public healthy and safe. They also guide health department leaders to assist in the promotion of population health and in the prevention of injury, disease, and premature death.

Local boards of health should reflect the diversity of the communities that they serve. All members should have a willingness to contribute their time and energy to the board and community efforts, and have a desire to question and learn. In addition, board members should be open to creating and participating in public and private partnerships to promote and protect the health of their community.
THE THREE CORE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS

Assessment

• Monitor health status to identify community health problems
• Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
• Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services

Policy Development

• Develop policies and plans that support individual community health efforts
• Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
• Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Assurance

• Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
• Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce
• Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
• Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
THE TEN ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**Essential Service: Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems**

Activities by state and/or local public health agencies
- Determine and monitor water quality
- Monitor water wells
- Monitor wastewater treatment and disposal
- Identification of water-quality problems
- Mosquito surveillance
- Immunizations
- STD/HIV testing and counseling
- Food-borne illness investigations
- Bio-emergency preparation and coordination
- Tracking of number of wells, abandoned wells
- Screening for diabetes
- Needs assessment
- Collection of child oral health data
- Child lead-poisoning surveillance

**Essential Service: Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community**

Activities by state and/or local public health agencies
- Medical examiners
- Epidemiology
- TB
- HIV/AIDS
- Investigation and evaluation of nuisance complaints
- Wellhead assessments and site evaluations

**Essential Service: Inform, educate and empower people about health issues**

Activities by state and/or local public health agencies
- Community health education and health promotion
- Public health education through the media, presentations, the Internet, displays, etc...
- HIV/AIDS risk reduction curriculum
- Child-abuse education
- Domestic violence education
- WIC educational programs
- Informing, educating parties involved in nuisance investigations
- Public education about well construction
**Essential Service: Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems**

Activities by state and/or local public health agencies
- Tobacco-free coalitions
- Bio-emergency regional collaboration
- Collaborative efforts with private industry to combat domestic violence
- Community partnerships with law enforcement, county attorneys, community betterment groups, housing authorities
- Referrals and collaboration with health-care providers
- Collaboration with WIC, public health nursing, special-population advocates to meet the needs of special populations

**Essential Service: Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts**

Activities by state and/or local public health agencies
- State board of health oversight and regulatory functions
- Local board of health oversight and regulatory functions
- Public hearings
- Administration of state and local public health departments
- Monitoring of contractors/providers
- Community health planning
- Strategic and performance planning
- Development of a plan to address housing needs
- Updating of health and nuisance ordinances
- Development of policies on investigations, police assistance and trespass and safety issues
- Board of health adoption of rules that require better management of water systems in small, rural subdivisions
- Determination of need for community water supplies
- Development of variance procedures
- Establishment of procedures for water well permits
- Establishment of civil citation authority
- Establishment of procedures to deal with contaminated or high risk sites
- Establishment of financial assistance for well sampling, plugging or rehabilitation

**Essential service: Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety**

Activities by state and/or local public health agencies
- Hazardous materials and sites inspections and certifications
- Milk inspections
- Professional licensure and regulation
- Food inspections
- Tanning and tattoo inspections
- Enforcement of state/county/local health-related rules and ordinances
Essential service: Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable

Activities by state and/or local public health agencies
- TB program
- Public health nursing services
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection program
- Maternal and child health
- WIC
- Critical Access Hospitals
- Linkages to regional landfills for disposal options
- Informing the public on useful nuisance-abatement websites

Essential service: Assure a competent public and personal health-care work force

Activities by state and/or local public health agencies
- Food-service worker Safety Certification Course
- Public health certification
- Learning management system
- Regional bio-emergency meetings
- Public health practitioner performance evaluations
- Sanitarian, water-contractor training
- Certification of environmental health professionals

Essential service: Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services

Activities by state and/or local public health agencies
- Data management
- Performance-plan monitoring
- Public health contract requirements
- Health needs assessments
- Tracking responses to complaints
- Permit issuance for nuisances
- Ensuring that wells drilled by certified people
- Sealing unused, unsafe wells

Essential service: Research new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Activities by state and/or local public health agencies
- Health needs assessments
- Bio-emergency survey participation
- Lighten Up survey participation
- Customer service evaluations
- Promotion of recycling and composting
- Study of successful public health programs in other jurisdictions
- Research on water-treatment methods