

REPORT TO THE BOARDS OF HEALTH

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Mid-Michigan District Health Department, Wednesday, February 27, 2019
Central Michigan District Health Department, Wednesday, February 27, 2019
District Health Department #10, Friday, February 22, 2019



Role of Medical Director

There are 45 local public health departments in Michigan. These health departments cover either a single county (there are 30 single county health departments), a group of counties (there are 14 district health departments), or a city (only one city department: Detroit). The public health code requires that each health department have either a medical health officer or a health officer and medical director. Currently, there is only one medical health officer in the state and the remaining 44 health departments utilize the health officer-medical director model.

Per the public health code, the medical director of a district health department is employed by the district board of health to provide direction in formulation of medical public health policy and program operation, is responsible for developing and carrying out medical policies, procedures, and standing orders, and for advising the health officer on matters related to medical specialty judgments. A medical director must be a physician that is either board certified in preventative medicine, has an MPH and not less than 2 years in full-time public health practice, or has been granted provisional appointment by the state for no more than three years. The medical director should be devoted full time to the health department; however, if the population is less than 250,000 and the medical director is covering less than 3 departments, they may be part-time (no less than 16 hours per week).

The day to day activities of a medical director varies greatly depending on whether serving a rural or urban area, single county or district, one health department or several, and whether part-time or full time. The medical director covering these three health departments covers 19 counties, more than any other medical director in Michigan, accounting for nearly 1/5th the square mileage of the entire state.

Basic duties of a medical director are listed in Table One along with examples of how the medical director for these three districts fulfills those duties. Please note this is not a complete list.

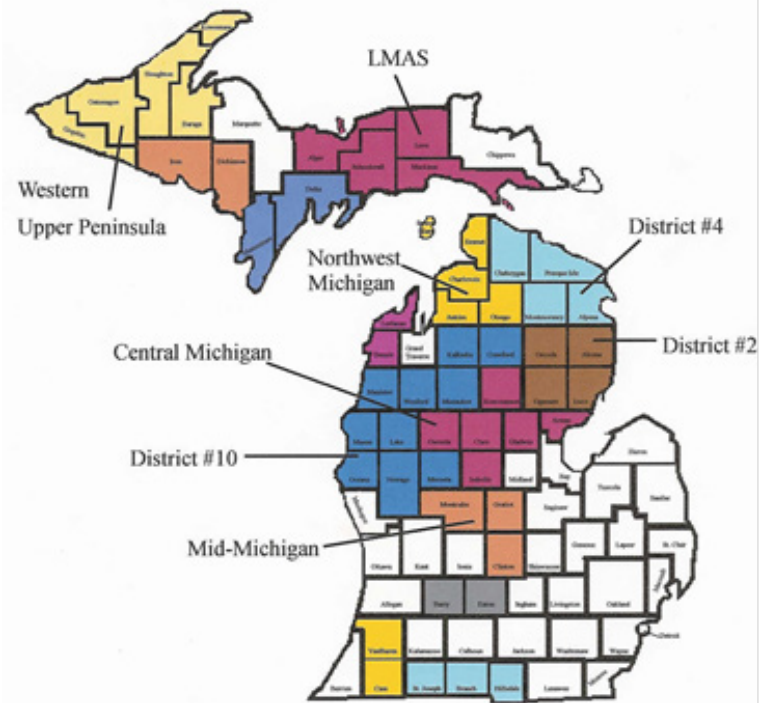


Table One

Duties of the Medical Director	Some Examples of Duties (most done at three health departments)
Function as part of the administrative team by providing appropriate medical input to the administrative decision-making process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend monthly administration meeting/management meetings • Attend monthly board meetings • Pertinent administrative policy development and review
Actively engage local/state/national political leaders and officials to promote public health goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote T21 legislation • Education efforts prior to vote to legalize rec. MJ • Attend meetings with political leaders re: opioids, other topics • Writing resolutions re: gun safety, vaccination waivers, etc.
Serve as a liaison to medical community, health care networks, and other groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with healthcare providers (either directly or via nurses) re: communicable disease (CD) cases, testing, vaccine errors, unusual vaccine situations, etc. • Provide resources, references and data to providers • Give presentations to healthcare groups (ex: Rabies conference, Hepatitis C conference, Infectious Diarrhea presentation) • Send letters and information to all healthcare providers when updates are needed about ongoing outbreaks or any changes in public health • Communicate with schools and nursing homes (directly or via nurses) re: CD issues • Send letters and information to schools and nursing homes when updates are needed about ongoing outbreaks or changes • Provide letters to schools to send home to parents re: any CD issue in schools
Represent the department on various local and state committees and special task forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council • Member of Executive Board of Region 6 Healthcare Coalition • Member of Michigan Family Planning Medical Advisory Committee • President of Michigan Association of Preventative Medicine and Public Health Physicians • Instructor for Physician Peer Education Program on Immunizations
Provide medical oversight and guidance to all programs of the department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field questions from department nurses re: CD cases, immunization, test results, etc. • Write/review policies and procedures for all clinical activities • Sign standing orders for all clinical services provided by nurses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This also allows for insurance billing • Assist with medical aspect in other departments such as toxicology/other human health issues in EH, lead testing/management, anemia, etc. in WIC, other health related questions from community
Function as an integral member of the local Emergency Preparedness Team other public health threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write and review policies and procedures for EP, specifically medical point of dispensing countermeasures • Actively participate in EP exercise planning and execution • Received additional training in disaster live support and mass fatalities

<p>Provide direct medical services or oversight of mid-level practitioners for specific programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide oversight to up to 12 mid-level providers; currently overseeing 10 nurse practitioners: one at MMDHD, three at CMDHD, and six at DHD10 (3 in family planning, 3 in school clinics) • These providers work under my supervision, delegation and collaboration to practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This also allows for billing of insurance • Providing services in STD, family planning, women's health, children/adolescent school-based care • Provide them with clinical guidance as needed, do chart reviews, attend meetings, etc.
<p>Function as a contact person between the department and medical services at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and assist in translating these services into local activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive calls from MDHHS epidemiologists, emerging disease staff, etc. re: important matters that need to be addressed • Receive after hours calls from MDHHS • Receive calls from MDHHS program leads re: ideas for new programs • Take staff concerns or local problems/needs for help to MDHHS
<p>Serve as the spokesperson for the department by being a visible public health leader for the department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide new interviews • Give public talks • Write/edit materials for public education
<p>The medical director may serve as a mentor to new medical directors and may serve as an academic teacher or preceptor to students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide help to newer medical directors • Clinical Assistant Professor at MSU College of Human Medicine: teach public health curriculum to Rural Medicine students based in Gratiot, Clare, and Ludington County

Overall, serving as a medical director for a local public health department is a very interesting and dynamic position. The medical director is a resource to the community and can be called on with questions and concerns.

Sources:

Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978 and Rules

http://dmbinternet.state.mi.us/DMB/ORRDocs/AdminCode/385_10361_AdminCode.pdf