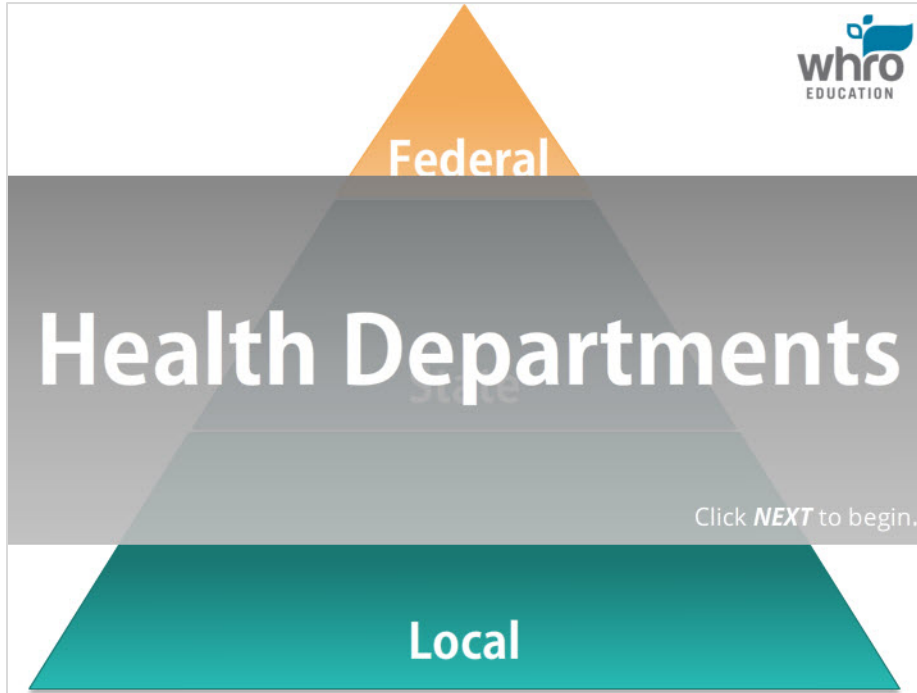


**Module 7: Public Health**  
**Topic 1 Content: Health Departments Notes**

**Introduction**

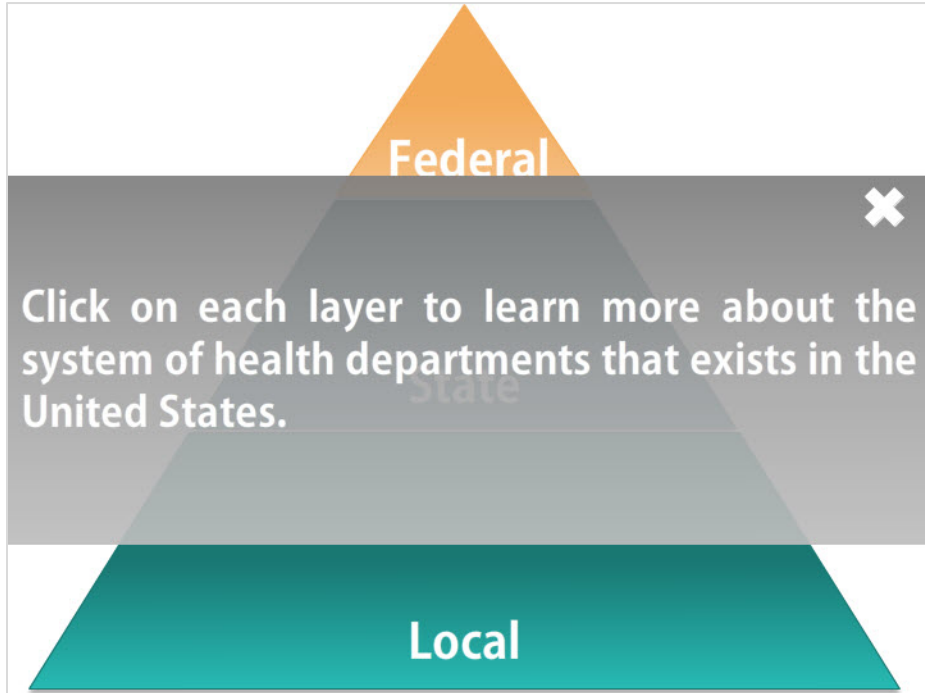


Health Departments

Click *NEXT* to begin.

**Module 7: Public Health**  
**Topic 1 Content: Health Departments Notes**

**Instructions**



Click on each layer to learn more about the system of health departments that exists in the United States.

## Module 7: Public Health

### Topic 1 Content: Health Departments Notes

#### Local Health Departments



- Recording and Analysis of Health Data
- Health Education and Information
- Supervision and Regulation
- Administration of Personal Health Services

Click on each box to learn more about how local health departments serve their communities. After you have finished exploring all of the responsibilities, click the return arrow to return to the pyramid of health departments.

**Local**

The local health department is the basic service unit in the administration of public health. The local health department obtains information concerning local health needs and is responsible for providing its community with direct services.

Click on each box to learn more about how local health departments serve their communities. After you have finished exploring all of the responsibilities, click the return arrow to return to the pyramid of health departments.

# Module 7: Public Health

## Topic 1 Content: Health Departments Notes

### Recording and Analysis of Health Data

**Recording and Analysis of Health Data** ✕

Local health departments are responsible for retaining health related data, such as:

- Recording and analyzing births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and diseases within a community.
- Maintenance of registers of individuals who have certain specific long-term diseases and impairments.
- Maintenance of continuing records of the types and existence of health services provided through various voluntary and public programs.

**Local**

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# Module 7: Public Health

## Topic 1 Content: Health Departments Notes

### Health Education and Information

**Health Education and Information** ✕

Local health departments are responsible for providing health education and information to the community, such as:

- Organizes lectures, classes, and courses: mothers' and fathers' classes, courses for food handlers, classes for diabetics, and lectures to community groups.
- Uses newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, the internet, movies, radio, and public television to send out mass educational information related to public health.

**Local**

Local health departments are responsible for providing health education and information to the community, such as:

- Works with public and voluntary organizations such as the department of education; and civic, youth, and other community groups in the development of their health programs.
- Provides individual instruction by public health nurses or other personnel to families in which a communicable disease has occurred, to mothers attending well-baby conferences, or to diabetic and other patients who are taught to follow the regimen prescribed by the family physician.
- Organizes lectures, classes, and courses: mothers' and fathers' classes, courses for food handlers (which are courses needed for anyone working in a restaurant, including fast-food restaurants), classes for diabetics, and lectures to community groups.
- Uses newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, the internet, movies, radio, and public television to send out mass educational information related to public health.

# Module 7: Public Health

## Topic 1 Content: Health Departments Notes

### Supervision and Regulation



**Supervision and Regulation** ✕

Local health departments are responsible for supervising and regulating a variety of areas related to public health, such as:

- Protection of food, water, and milk supplies
- The control of nuisances
- The sanitary disposal of wastes and control of pollution
- The prevention of occupational diseases and accidents
- The control of human and animal sources of infection, such as rabies
- The inspection of hospitals, nursing homes, and other health facilities

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# Module 7: Public Health

## Topic 1 Content: Health Departments Notes

### Administration of Personal Health Services



**Administration of Personal Health Services** ✕

Local health departments are in charge of providing several personal health services, such as:

- Provides immunizations for infectious diseases
- Applies fluoride to children's teeth
- Conducts child-health conferences, prenatal clinics, and parents' classes
- Supplies diagnostic aids, such as laboratory services, to physicians
- Provides treatment for diseases

**Local**

Local health departments are in charge of providing several personal health services, such as:

- Provides immunizations for infectious diseases
- Applies fluoride to children's teeth
- Conducts child-health conferences, prenatal clinics, and parents' classes
- Supplies diagnostic aids, such as laboratory services, to physicians
- Provides treatment for diseases such as syphilis; tuberculosis; dental defects in children and expectant mothers; and orthopedic, cardiac, and other crippling impairments in children

# Module 7: Public Health

## Topic 1 Content: Health Departments Notes

### State Health Departments

The primary responsibility of your state health department is the strengthening of local health departments in terms of personnel, facilities, and services. State health departments are concerned with the health and well-being of everyone in their states. They create programs for:

- environmental health services;
- laboratory services; and
- preventive, curative, and restorative medical care services, including home and clinic health services.



State

The primary responsibility of your state health department is the strengthening of local health departments in terms of personnel, facilities, and services. State health departments are concerned with the health and well-being of everyone in their states. They create programs for:

- environmental health services;
- laboratory services; and
- preventive, curative, and restorative medical care services, including home and clinic health services.

State health departments also define the income limitations within which a person may claim to be medically indigent. In other words, they determine how much federal money is distributed to people who need financial support to receive medical care. Overall, state health departments oversee and provide support for local health departments.



## Module 7: Public Health

### Topic 1 Content: Health Departments Notes

#### Federal Health Department

The nation's health department is known as the United States Department of Health and Human Services. This department is the U.S. government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

- Provides grants and funding
- Provides funding for Medicare and Medicaid
- Oversees state and local health departments



Federal

The nation's health department is known as the United States Department of Health and Human Services. This department is the U.S. government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services provides grants and federal funding for programs to help Americans who need financial support to receive medical care. This agency is responsible for providing funds for its Medicare and Medicaid programs, which provide health insurance for many Americans. This national health department oversees state and local health departments.