

Municipal Health Services

Section 32 of the National Health Act 61 of 2003 district mandates municipalities. to provide municipal health services. Municipal health also known as Environmental Health services are services rendered by professionals governed by HPCSA to promote health and prevent diseases. Environmental Health is the public health field that monitors and addresses those physical, chemical, and biological factors that we might not have direct control over, but can impact our health anyway. We don't always see it, but our environment is shaping our health every moment of every day. Where we live, what we eat, and how we interact with the world around us can tip the scales between healthy or not. That's where environmental health professionals, policies, and programs all come into play. The following are municipal health services as implemented by Sekhukhune District Municipality:

1. Water quality monitoring

 Monitoring water quality through sampling and analysis, including mapping of water source.

Enforcement of Acts and Regulations related to water quality management

Ensuring a hygienically safe and adequate supply of potable water provision

Ensuring the monitoring of effective waste water treatment and water pollution control, including the collection, treatment and safe disposal of sewage and surveillance of the quality of surface water for waterborne diseases.

2. Food control

Ensuring compliance with R962 and issuing of certificates (COA) to food premises

Carry out routine inspections of food handling in establishments (formal and Informal premises) to ensure compliance

- Enforcement of the food related provisions of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 9Act No: 54 of 1972) and Regulations.
- · Implement measures for the recall and/or condemnation and proper disposal of foodstuffs unfit, unwholesome for human consumption
- · Promote the safe transportation, handling, storage and preparation of food stuffs used in Primary schools Nutrition Programme(PSNP), Prisons, Health establishments and ect

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3. Waste management

- Monitoring of waste management systems- refuse, health care waste. hazardous waste and sewage.
- Advocate for proper sanitation.
- Ensuring that all types waste is stored, collected, removed and disposed off effectively and efficiently and that proper facilities and containers are provided.
- Compliance monitoring of garden refuse sites, refuse transfer sites, landfill sites, incinerators, recycling sites, sewerage and water works and the processes associated with such premises and instituting remedial and preventative measures.
- Ensuring safe usage of treated sewerage sludge and health safety of reclaimed waste

4. Health surveillance of premises

- Residential, Business and Public premises are regularly monitored to identify and evaluate health risks and hazards and institute remedial and preventative measures.
- Environmental Impact Health Assessments.
- Assessing aspects such as ventilation and indoor air quality, lighting. moisture -proofing, thermal quality, structural safety and floor space.
- Ensuring the abatement and prevention of any condition on any premises which is likely to constitute a nuisance or health hazard.
- Assessment of an overcrowded, dirty or unsatisfactory condition in any residential, commercial, industrial or other occupied premises.

Surveillance and prevention of communicable diseases, excluding immunisations

- Health and hygiene promotion aimed at prevention of environmentally induced and communicable diseases.
- Determination of sources of infection, contacts and carriers of diseases (case investigation) and reporting.
- Collection and analysis of appropriate epidemiological information on communicable diseases.

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- Collaborate with other stakeholders and Departments regarding outbreaks.
- · Taking of samples and specimens for analysis and further action if deemed necessary.
- · Instituting remedial and preventative measures.

Vector control

- · Identification of vectors, their habitats and breeding places and instituting remedial and preventative measures.
- · Removal or remedying of conditions favouring the prevalence or increase of rodents, insects and vectors.
- · Carrying out of routine surveillance actions and surveys to determine the prevalence of vectors.
- · Instituting of eradication/control measures such as spraying of premises. baiting, fumigation, application of pesticides and placing of traps at premises.

7. Environmental pollution control

- · Ensuring hygienic working, living and recreational environments.
- · Identification of polluting agents and their sources i.e. air, land and water and instituting of corrective measures where such nuisances, risks or hazards occur.
- · Approval of Environmental Health Impact reports and commenting on Environmental Impact Assessment applications

8. Disposal of the dead

- · Controlling, restricting or prohibiting the business of an undertaker or embalmer, mortuaries and other places or facilities for the storage of dead bodies. Issuing certificates of Competency to Funeral Undertakers premises complying with legislation.
- · Monitoring practices at cemeteries, crematoria and other facilities used for the disposal of dead bodies.
- · Managing, controlling and monitoring exhumations and reburials or disposal of remains.
- Investigating and performing pauper burials

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9. Chemical safety,

- · Listing all operators, fumigation firms formal or informal, retail premises which deals with the (manufacturing, application, transportation and storage)
- · Permitting and auditing of all hazardous substance premises and issuing of health certificates.
- · Ensuring compliance and enforcement in accordance with Health and Safety act
- · Facilitating advice, education and training of pesticides and or chemical safety.

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