

**PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTE  
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In response to the development of modern vaccines and changing public health science, public health laws must be regularly examined and modernized to help public health agencies respond to new and existing threats. These questions, along with the Turning Point Act, can help you start the assessment process:

- Do your public health laws clearly define relationships between state, local and tribal public health systems?
- Do your public health laws clearly outline the responsibilities and powers of your public health system?
- Do your public health laws provide standard approaches for preventing or controlling conditions of public health importance?
- Do your laws provide a mission for public health?
- Are there features in your laws (e.g. requirements for training, competency building, planning) that are designed to help develop/maintain a strong public health infrastructure?
- Do your laws set clear limits for the exercise of compulsory public health powers?
- Do your public health laws address emergency situations where circumstances require use of additional powers to protect the public?
- Is protecting the privacy of identifiable health data available to public health agencies addressed in your laws?
- What are the constitutional limits of public health powers in your state or locale?

For more information or for a complete copy of the Turning Point Model State Public Health Act, visit

[www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/improving/turningpoint/MSPHA.htm](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/improving/turningpoint/MSPHA.htm) or  
[www.turningpointprogram.org](http://www.turningpointprogram.org).