

## Chapter HFS 139

QUALIFICATIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
EMPLOYED BY LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES

HFS 139.01	Authority	HFS 139.07	Public health professionals who direct environmental health programs.
HFS 139.02	Purpose and scope.	HFS 139.08	Public health nurses.
HFS 139.03	Definitions.	HFS 139.09	Directors of public health nursing programs.
HFS 139.04	General requirement.		
HFS 139.05	Health officers.		
HFS 139.06	Public health professionals serving as health officers for the purpose of communicable disease control.		

**Note:** Chapters H 106 and HSS 155 as they existed on November 30, 1984 were repealed and a new Chapter HSS 139 was created effective December 1, 1984. Chapter HSS 139 was renumbered chapter HFS 139 under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., and corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 6. and 7., Stats., Register, June, 1997, No. 498.

**HFS 139.01 Authority.** This chapter is promulgated under the authority of ss. 250.04 (7), 251.04 (8) and 250.06 (1), Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1984, No. 347, eff. 12-1-84; corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, August, 1995, No. 476.

**HFS 139.02 Purpose and scope.** This chapter prescribes qualifications for county, city, and village health officers, public health professionals serving as local health officers for communicable disease control under county health committees or commissions, health officers appointed by town boards of health, public health professionals who direct the environmental health programs, public health nurses, and directors of general public health nursing programs.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1984, No. 347, eff. 12-1-84.

**HFS 139.03 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) "Department" means the Wisconsin department of health and family services.

(2) "Director of public health nursing program" means the person in charge of planning, directing, supervising and evaluating the general public health nursing services program for a county or municipality.

(3) "Health officer" means the person with authority in a county or municipality for public health law enforcement and the implementation of public health program activities.

(4) "Municipality" means any city, town or village.

(5) "Public health nurse" means a person employed to work in a public health agency providing public health nursing services who holds a certificate of registration as a registered professional nurse under ch. 441, Stats., and who possesses the qualifications delineated in s. HFS 139.08.

(6) "Public health professional" means a health officer, the director of a public health nursing program, a public health nurse, or any other person who possesses the training and experience qualifications delineated in this chapter.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1984, No. 347, eff. 12-1-84.

**HFS 139.04 General requirement.** No person may be employed or may continue to be employed by a county or municipality to perform the duties of a health officer, public health nurse, director of public health nursing programs, or other public health professional unless he or she meets the qualifications set forth in this chapter. The department may, on its own initiative or upon request, review the qualifications of persons applying for or functioning in positions described in s. HFS 139.02, and may advise the employing unit whether it considers a person to be qualified or not under this chapter.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1984, No. 347, eff. 12-1-84.

**HFS 139.05 Health officers.** A health officer shall have one of the following:

(1) A master's degree in public health, public administration, health administration, or a similar field, and 3 years of full-time experience in an administrative position in either a public health agency or in public health work;

(2) A bachelor's degree and 16 graduate semester credits towards a master's degree in public health, public administration, health administration, or a similar field and 5 years of full-time experience in an administrative position in either a public health agency or in public health work;

(3) A license to practice medicine under ch. 448, Stats., and one year of full-time experience in an administrative position either in a public health agency or in public health work, eligibility for certification by the American board of preventive medicine in public health or general preventive medicine, or a master's degree in public health, public administration, health administration, or a similar field; or

(4) Employment as a health officer on December 1, 1984, with all requirements under sub. (1), (2) or (3) being met within 5 years after December 1, 1984.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1984, No. 347, eff. 12-1-84; corrections in (4) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 14., Stats., Register, November, 1988, No. 395.

**HFS 139.06 Public health professionals serving as health officers for the purpose of communicable disease control.** A public health professional serving as a health officer for the purpose of communicable disease control shall have one of the following:

(1) A bachelor's or higher degree from a nursing program accredited by the national professional nursing education accrediting organization, or from a nursing program accredited by the board of nursing under ch. 441, Stats., and at least 3 years of full-time employment with a public health agency, including responsibility for a communicable disease prevention and control program preferably in a supervisory or other administrative position. The nursing program from which the degree is earned shall include preparation in public health nursing;

(2) Public health nursing certification by the department prior to December 1, 1984 and at least 3 years of full-time employment with a public health agency, including responsibility for a communicable disease prevention and control program preferably in a supervisory or other administrative position;

(3) A bachelor's or higher degree in public health, environmental health, the physical or biological sciences or a similar field and 3 years of full-time employment with a public health agency, including responsibility for a communicable disease prevention and control program preferably in a supervisory or other administrative position; or

(4) Employment as a health officer for the purpose of communicable disease control on December 1, 1984, with all educational and experience requirements under sub. (1), (2) or (3) being met within 5 years after December 1, 1984.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1984, No. 347, eff. 12-1-84; am (1), Register, November, 1988, No. 395, eff. 12-1-88; corrections in (2) and (4) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 14., Stats., Register, November, 1988, No. 395

**HFS 139.07 Public health professionals who direct environmental health programs.** A public health professional who directs the environmental health program shall have one of the following:

(1) A bachelor's or higher degree in public health, environmental health, the physical or biological sciences or a similar field, be registered as a sanitarian under s. 250.05, Stats., and ch. HSS 160, and have at least 3 years of satisfactory work experience in an environmental health program, preferably in a supervisory or other administrative capacity;

(2) Employment on December 1, 1984 in a local government agency as the administrator of the private sewage systems program under s. 145.20, Stats., and be registered as a sanitarian under s. 250.05, Stats., and ch. HSS 160 or meet that requirement upon appointment as a public health professional who directs the environmental health program; or

(3) Employment on December 1, 1984 as a public health professional who directs the environmental health program, with all educational and experience requirements under sub. (1) being met within 5 years after December 1, 1984.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1984, No. 347, eff. 12-1-84; corrections in (2) and (3) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 14., Stats., Register, November, 1988, No. 395; correction in (1) and (2) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, August, 1995, No. 476.

**HFS 139.08 Public health nurses.** A public health nurse, in addition to holding a certificate of registration as a registered professional nurse under ch. 441, Stats., shall have one of the following:

(1) A bachelor's degree from a nursing program accredited by the national professional nursing education accrediting organization, or from a nursing program accredited by the board of nursing under ch. 441, Stats. The program shall include preparation in public health nursing;

(2) A master's degree from a nursing program accredited by the national professional nursing education accrediting organization, or from a nursing program accredited by the board of nursing under ch. 441, Stats. The program shall include preparation in public health nursing;

(4) A public health nurse certificate issued by the department prior to December 1, 1984; or

(5) Employment on December 1, 1984 as a public health nurse, with all educational requirements under sub. (1) or (2) being met within 7 years after December 1, 1984.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1984, No. 347, eff. 12-1-84; am. (1), (2) and (5), r. (3), Register, November, 1988, No. 395, eff. 12-1-88; corrections in (4) and (5) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 14., Stats., Register, November, 1988, No. 395.

**HFS 139.09 Directors of public health nursing programs.** The director of a public health nursing program shall be:

(1) A public health nurse who meets the requirements in s. HFS 139.08 (1) or (2) and who has 3 or more years of progressively responsible full-time experience in a general public health nursing program in a public health agency;

(2) A public health nurse who meets the requirements in s. HFS 139.08 (1) or (2) with a master's degree in nursing, public health, public administration, health administration, or a similar field, and who has 2 or more years of full-time experience in public health nursing in a public health agency;

(3) Employed on December 1, 1984 as the director of a public health nursing program, with all educational and experience requirements under sub. (1) or (2) being met within 7 years after December 1, 1984; or

(4) Employed on April 1, 1988 as the director of a public health nursing program, and a recipient of a public health nurse certificate issued by the department prior to December 1, 1984.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1984, No. 347, eff. 12-1-84; am. (1) to (3), cr. (4), Register, November, 1988, No. 395, eff. 12-1-88; corrections in (3) and (4) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 14., Stats., Register, November, 1988, No. 395.