

THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL'S OATH

*A*s a public health professional, I hold sacred my duty to protect and promote the health of the public. I believe that working for the public's health is more than a job, it is a calling to public service. Success in this calling requires integrity, clarity of purpose and, above all, the trust of the public. Whenever threats to trust in my profession arise, I will counter them with bold actions and clear statements of my professional ethical responsibilities.

I do hereby swear and affirm to my colleagues and to the public I serve that I commit myself to the following professional obligations.

In my work as a public health professional:

- I will strive to understand the fundamental causes of disease and good health and work both to prevent disease and promote good health.
- I will respect individual rights while promoting the health of the public.
- I will work to protect and empower disenfranchised persons to ensure that basic resources and conditions for health are available to all.
- I will seek out information and use the best available evidence to guide my work.
- I will work with the public to ensure that my work is timely, open to review, and responsive to the public's needs, values, and priorities.
- I will anticipate and respect diverse values, beliefs, and cultures.
- I will promote public health in ways that most protect and enhance both the physical and social environments.
- I will always respect and strive to protect confidential information.
- I will maintain and improve my own competence and effectiveness.
- I will promote the education of students of public health, other public health professionals, and the public in general, and work to ensure the competence of my colleagues.
- I will respect the collaborative nature of public health, working with all health professionals who labor to protect and promote health.
- I will respectfully challenge decisions that are contrary to supporting and protecting the public's health.
- In all that I do I will put the health of the public first, even when doing so may threaten my own interest or those of my employer.

In dedication to these high goals, on my honor, and with a clear understanding of these obligations that I as a public health professional have accepted, I do, this day, commit myself.