

		<b>West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources</b>			
		<b>MANUAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROCEDURES</b>			
Section	Disease Control	Date	January 5, 1983	Procedure #	DC-1
Subject	Environmental Epidemiology			Page	1 of 1

**Purpose:** To acquaint local sanitarians with the Environmental Epidemiology Task Force and to establish a routine referral procedure for local reports of possible environmental health problems.

**Background:** Increased public awareness and concern regarding the health effects of environmental contaminants has produced a growth in the number of local requests for further investigation by the W.V. Department of Health. In response, the Director of Health has created an intradepartmental Environmental Epidemiology Task Force to investigate all reports of possible linkages between chronic health problems and environmental contaminants.

**Applicability:** This directive applies to all organizational units within the Office of Environmental Health Services with special relevance to local Sanitarians.

**Procedures:** The following procedures shall be followed for all local reports of possible linkages between chronic (non-infectious) health problems and environmental contaminants regardless of the course or reliability of the report. Do not screen such reports in any manner or delay the implementation of these procedures. Sanitarians must actively seek out and encourage the submission of these reports.

- (a) A written description of each report shall be submitted directly to the Director of Health for referral to the Environmental Epidemiology Task Force.
- (b) A copy of each written report in (a) shall be submitted to the Director of General Environmental Health, Office of Environmental Health Services.
- (c) Contact by telephone the Director of the Environmental Health Services Laboratory for directions regarding the collection and transfer of environmental samples.
- (d) Do not refuse any environmental sample proffered by a concerned individual unless such sample itself constitutes a health or safety hazard.
- (e) Do not destroy any environmental sample until directed to do so by the Director of the Environmental Health Services Laboratory.

#### References

[Memorandum from L. Clark Hansbarger, M.D., Director of Health, re: Environmental Epidemiology Task Force, December 7, 1982](#)

[Protocol for the Investigation of Possible Environmental Health Problems Environmental Epidemiology Task Force, W.D. Department of Health, July 20, 1982](#)

#### History

#### Attachments