

## **VT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER PROGRAM**

Town (municipal) health officers, appointed by the Health Commissioner on the recommendation of the local selectboard or city council, work with the Health Department in protecting public health in their town or city.

Their duties, set out by Vermont law ([18 V.S.A. § 602a](#)) include the following:

- Investigating possible public health hazards and risks within the municipality and notifying the Department upon their discovery.
- Taking action to prevent, remove or destroy any such hazards and to mitigate significant public health risks.
- Enforcing health laws, rules and permit conditions, and, in consultation with the Department, taking the steps necessary to enforce orders issued by the Department.

The local health officer, together with the selectboard of the town, or the city council of the city, constitute the municipality's board of health, with further duties set out by law ([18 V.S.A. § 613](#)).

The Department of [Health's Division Health & The Environment](#) assists the local health officials by

- Coordinating the appointment process for municipal health officers.
- Producing manuals and newsletters for municipal health officers to keep them informed of recent environmental health issues and regulations; developing and providing training sessions on public health issues relevant to their work. (Examples of training topics include rabies control, rental housing regulations, safe drinking water standards, and sanitation.)
- Participating in policy development on environmental health issues relevant to the work of municipal health officers.
- Aiding municipal health officers in carrying out their duties.

If you have a question about the Municipal Health Officer Program in your area, please contact the Environmental Health designee at your [State Health Department District Office](#).