

## Local Health Officer Job description

The local health officer work force has a unique knowledge about how to assist and protect Maine citizens and communities. They are "on the ground", working along with public health nurses, other local health officers, environmental health officials, and other professionals who share the common goal of improving and caring for the health of their communities.

The LHO monitors his or her community through identifying and/or responding to immediate and trends in health risks to individuals or the community through town resident queries and/or the sharp eye of the LHO.

This is a part time job and does not require the LHO to be a local resident.

The local health officer must be qualified by education, training or experience in the field of public health or a combination as determined by standards adopted by department rule no later than June 1, 2008. A person who is employed as a local health officer who is not qualified by education, training or experience must meet qualification standards adopted by department rule no later than 6 months after appointment.

Maine LHOs role began in 1885 and have had a long and proud tradition of serving their communities. The "Local Health Officer" (LHO) is a term established by Maine Statute.

An LHOs activities and duties include:

- Health resource for the community
- Enforce public health safety laws
- Report communicable diseases
- Investigate/Enforce complaints
- Examine nature of public complaints
- With consent, inspect and examine premises where filth and conditions pose a public health threat
- Keep record of complaints, investigation and resolution