

Public Health Accreditation Board

Standards & Measures Version 2022 FAQ



*Advancing
public health
performance*

Standards & Measures Version 2022 will use the [10 Essential Public Health Services](#) as its framework, and will highlight which measures correspond to the crosscutting skills and capacities listed in the [Foundational Public Health Capabilities](#).

Questions?
Contact your assigned Accreditation Specialist or reach out to Marita Chilton at mchilton@phaboard.org

Below are frequently asked questions as it relates to the Standards & Measures Version 2022, updated in September 2021.

Timing and roll-out of Version 2022

When will Version 2022 will go into effect?

PHAB anticipates the earliest Version 2022 would go into effect is for health departments that apply for **initial accreditation** on or after July 1, 2022. The exact timeline will be announced to the field later in 2021.

Health departments who apply for **reaccreditation** any time in the year 2022 will have the option to select between the current reaccreditation Standards & Measures and Version 2022 of the Standards & Measures. Health departments going through the reaccreditation process in 2022 that plan to use Version 2022 and need a little more time to prepare after Version 2022 is released may apply for an extension. In early 2022, PHAB will hold a webinar for health departments applying for reaccreditation that year to help them understand the differences in the versions and considerations for making that decision. Additional details about the extension process for health departments using Version 2022 for reaccreditation will also be provided. In the meantime, health departments that are scheduled for reaccreditation in 2022, can review the draft Standards & Measures for [public vetting](#) to get a sense of the proposed changes.

For initial accreditation, will I have the option of choosing either Version 1.5 or Version 2022?

For initial accreditation, health departments will apply under Version 1.5 until PHAB's cut over date to Version 2022. That date will be on or after July 1, 2022. Later this year, we will announce the specific date. Health departments will submit their Application before that cut over date in order to use Version 1.5. Health departments that would like to use Version 2022, will submit their Application after the cut over date. Health departments interested in pursuing initial accreditation can review the draft Standards & Measures for [public vetting](#) to get a sense of the proposed changes if they are determining what version to use.

What are the next steps for Version 2022? What is the tentative release date?

When the vetting period ends, PHAB's Accreditation Improvement Committee will review the feedback we receive and revise the Standards & Measures accordingly. Those versions will go to the PHAB Board of Director for their approval. We anticipate the final Version 2022 Standards & Measures will be released in the first quarter of 2022.

Changes in Version 2022

Will there be one set of standards for Initial and another for Reaccreditation?

Version 2022 will include one set of initial accreditation Standards & Measures and one set of reaccreditation Standards & Measures. A health department

going through the 1st cycle of accreditation will use the Initial Standards & Measures. A health department going through any cycle of reaccreditation will use the Reaccreditation Standards & Measures.

Will both Initial and Reaccreditation have 10 Domains?

Yes. Both the Initial and Reaccreditation Standards & Measures will consist of 10 Domains, which are based on the [10 Essential Public Health Services](#) framework (updated September 2020)

Will Version 2022 Measures be more challenging or have stricter requirements?

Our goal in the Version 2022 revision process is not to raise the bar, but to reflect how the field of public health practice has changed since the Version 1.5 measures were developed. Version 2022 will address those areas that have developed further, such as preparedness and health equity. This is consistent with the [feedback](#) we received from accredited and in-progress health departments. While there will be some new measures, we are also working to streamline the existing requirements and reduce duplication where it currently exists. One of the other goals in the revision process is to clarify requirements and add more guidance and examples of how the capacity being measured can be documented.

When the 2022 version is released, will the new guidelines show or highlight differences to show what has changed from previous version?

As Version 2022 uses the revised [10 Essential Public Health Services](#) (revised 2020) as a framework, some concepts and Standards will be moved into different domains. While the Version 2022 Standards and Measures themselves will not include a crosswalk, PHAB is planning to develop materials that will provide an overview of the changes.

I noticed some Measures are designated as “Foundational Capability Measures.” What does that mean?

PHAB is indicating which measure align with the Foundational Capabilities component of the [Foundational Public Health Services \(FPHS\)](#) framework. That framework identifies seven capabilities to describe the infrastructure needed for all health departments to provide public health protection and to provide fair opportunities for all to be healthy. In Version 2022, you will see which Measures correspond to one of the following seven capabilities: 1) Assessment/Surveillance, 2) Emergency Preparedness and Response, 3) Policy Development and Support, 4) Communications, 5) Community Partnership Development, 6) Organizational Administrative Competencies and 7) Accountability/Performance Management. Details about the Foundational Capabilities can be found [here](#). The Accreditation Standards & Measures includes additional requirements in these areas to further advance public health practice. Consistent with previous versions of the PHAB Standards & Measures, the measures are aimed to foster continuous improvement and stretch, while still being attainable for health departments.

Reaccreditation for Version 2022 looks so much longer than the current version. Did PHAB add many new requirements?

No. There are actually slightly fewer required documents in Version 2022 compared to the current reaccreditation Standards & Measures. However, the document itself is longer because —at the request of health departments going through reaccreditation—we have provided additional guidance about the measures, including adding standards and purpose & significance statements. We have also heard that some of the measures in the current reaccreditation requirements are challenging because they contain so many different elements; we have divided those into a larger number of measures, each with fewer requirements. All those changes result in more pages, without having more requirements.

Participating in public vetting of Version 2022

How do I get started with vetting the Standards & Measures?

First, go to PHAB’s [vetting page](#). Then select which Version of the Standards & Measures you would like to review:

- If you have not yet applied for accreditation: Review the Initial Accreditation S&M
- If you are accredited or are well underway for accreditation: Review Reaccreditation S&M
- If you are interested in seeing the Measures designated as Foundational Capability Measures for initial accreditation OR if you are interested in the Pathways Recognition Program: Review Pathways/Foundational Capabilities S&M

You will want to take some time to review the Standards & Measures before you start the feedback survey. To help you organize your thoughts, we have prepared a [template](#) in which you can record your feedback offline, before completing the survey.

What types of feedback are you looking for?

We are interested in your suggestions for improvements to the Measures, the requirements, and the guidance. We welcome feedback about the clarity of the measures, as well as your feedback about how important the requirements are to public health practice and how feasible it would be for health departments to document. PHAB is exploring the development of a product that will recognize excellence in public health practice. If you think that some of the proposed requirements might be more suitable for an excellence recognition, please let us know.

What will PHAB do with the feedback that I provide?

PHAB will consider all feedback we receive and will revise the Standards & Measures based on those feedback with the guidance of the Accreditation Improvement Committee. That is why the final Version 2022 will look different from the version we put out for vetting. Although, the vetting drafts already incorporate what we have heard from public health practitioners over the past 5-10 years, we know that we will learn more during public vetting. The Standards & Measures will evolve accordingly.

Some of the Measures are the same in Initial Accreditation and Reaccreditation. If I have feedback about one of those Measures, do I need to provide it in both surveys?

No. Please only provide your comments once—in either survey. For Measures like 1.1.1 (the community health assessment), PHAB will combine data from across the surveys and make the changes in both versions.

Can I submit one survey with feedback from multiple individuals?

Yes. Please feel free to review the Standards & Measures as a group and then submit that collective feedback in one survey response. The survey includes a question where you can indicate that the response is from a group. You might want to consider reviewing it with the team that works on accreditation. You could also review a particular subset of measures with the staff most involved in that area—for example, reviewing Standard 2.2 with staff or partners most engaged in preparedness. We also encourage you to review select measures with external stakeholders. For example, you might want to review Standard 1.1 (community health assessment), Standard 5.2 (community health improvement plan), and Domain 4 (partnership and community engagement) with partner organizations or community members. Standard 10.3 (as well as Initial Accreditation Measures 1.3.2, 3.1.3, 5.1.1, 10.1.1, and 10.1.3) are Measures related to the governing entity and you may want to share those with your board of health or other governing body to gather feedback, as well.

Preparing to use the new Standards & Measures

How can we prepare for Version 2022 of the Standards and Measures?

You can prepare for the next version of the Standards & Measures by signing up for the PHAB newsletter, participating in the [public vetting process](#) (from now through November 5, 2021) and using the draft vetting version for planning purposes. While the version used for vetting will evolve based on the feedback we receive, it will still give you an understanding of the direction the Accreditation Improvement Committee is taking based on all the feedback that has

been gathered up until vetting. We will continue to communicate additional information related to Version 2022 as it is available in our newsletter and on this page.

While there will be changes in the Standards & Measures, both Version 1.5 and Version 2022 use the 10 Essential Public Health Services as its framework and include the cross-cutting skills and capacities listed in the Foundational Public Health Capabilities. Ensuring your major plans and policies are in conformity with the current version is one of the best ways to prepare for Version 2022.

What should we know in terms of updating major plans? We are currently updating our Community Health Assessment and will be updating our Community Health Improvement Plan soon, is there anything else you can share that can help us as we update our plans? What if there are new or changed requirements for Version 2022?

As you update your major plans, continue to use the Version 1.5 requirements as a guide. For departments preparing for Reaccreditation, PHAB would encourage you to look at the Version 1.5 requirements for initial accreditation around the major plans (rather than the Reaccreditation requirements).

Also, PHAB has and will continue to accept addendums and annexes to plans. This includes addendums you may add to your CHA and CHIP outside of the regular revision cycle. As the Version 2022 requirements will continue to evolve based on feedback from vetting, we cannot say for certain what required elements may be different. However, based on the drafts for public vetting, the main elements of most major plans do not have significant changes from Version 1.5. Some of the process elements have shifted where the requirement will be located and there is an increased emphasis on health equity. The one major plan that is expected to have more substantial changes is the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan. These changes are intended to focus the requirements on the public health portion of the EOP (e.g., ESF-8) and increase alignment with other emergency preparedness requirements in the field, such as Project Public Health Ready and CDC's Operational Readiness Review.

Other

Will the Standards & Measures be updated on a set basis? (Every 5 years vs some other amount of time)

PHAB tries to maintain a balance between updating the Standards & Measures often enough that they keep current with public health practice, while not changing them so frequently that it is difficult for health departments to prepare. PHAB does not currently have an established amount of time for the revision cycle.

Will the version numbers now be based on year? (e.g., Version 2022 rather than Version 2.0)

Great observation! Yes. Based on best practices from other accrediting bodies, PHAB will now use the year the Standards and Measures are released as the naming convention.

My health department currently has an ACAR (Accreditation Committee Action Requirements; formerly referred to as an Action Plan). Do we still need to work on ACAR measures if they have been modified in V2022?

Your department will remain under Version 1.5 of the Standards & Measures until you apply for reaccreditation. The changes to Version 2022 will not impact your ACAR requirements or the documentation you submit. Even if measures change or are removed under Version 2022, you still need to work on all measures the Accreditation Committee asked you to address in your ACAR because you will be accredited under Version 1.5.