Below are frequently asked questions as it relates to the Standards & Measures Version 2022, updated December 15, 2021.

### Timing and roll-out of Version 2022

**When will Version 2022 will go into effect?**
Version 2022 will go into effect for health departments that apply for **initial accreditation** after July 1, 2022. PHAB is currently developing the information system (e-PHAB) that will be used for Version 2022 documentation submission. While the launch date is contingent on the availability of e-PHAB, we anticipate it will be ready on July 1, 2022.

Health departments who submit their application 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 whose reaccreditation application deadlines are in 2022, but receive an extension can also chose which version, as long as they submit their application by December 31, 2023. (Note: this is based on the date the Reaccreditation Application is submitted, not the date the application opens in e-PHAB.) 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. On February 23, 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 that were released 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 (July 1, 2022). Health departments will submit their Application before July 1, 2022 in order to use Version 1.5. Health departments that would like to use Version 2022, will submit their Application after July 1, 2022. Health departments interested in pursuing initial accreditation can review the draft Standards & Measures that were released 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?**
Now that the vetting period has ended, 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
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released in the first quarter of 2022. View a summary of vetting results.

We are not eligible to apply for Reaccreditation until 2026. Will there be a revised version after 2022?
PHAB does not anticipate additional revisions of the entire Standards & Measures in the next several years. A complete
revision is not anticipated, although similar to other accrediting bodies, PHAB might consider revisions to specific measures
or requirements.

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? Will a crosswalk be developed between versions?
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. PHAB welcomes
feedback about what type of high-level crosswalk of changes would be helpful to health departments to navigate between
versions. This type of feedback can be submitted via email at info@phaboard.org.

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
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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.

**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 and using the draft vetting version for planning purposes. While the version used for vetting will evolve based on the feedback we received, 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.

**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, the draft Version 2022 requirements will give you a good sense about what will likely be required.

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 for Initial Accreditation. 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.

**Will the Glossary of Terms and other companion documents be updated?**

Yes. Key terms and definitions in the Glossary have been updated based on Version 2022 requirements, as well as Think Tanks, Expert Panels, Workgroups, and other recommendations received from the field. The updated version will be released subsequent to public vetting based on the final version of the Standards & Measures.

**Are any anticipated changes to the scoring categories?**

Great question! PHAB’s process will also be reviewed and potentially revised by the Accreditation Improvement Committee and the Board of Directors. Recommendations can be submitted via email to info@phaboard.org

**Will you consider accreditation levels?**
To incentivize continual growth and improvement, PHAB is exploring the possibility of adding “excellence” criteria to recognize health departments performing beyond the requirements. It is anticipated specific “excellence” criteria and process will be discussed starting in early 2022. This is part of PHAB’s strategic priority to meet the continuum of health department needs, which also includes the development of the Pathways Program, to provide a starting point for health departments not yet ready to apply for accreditation. Feedback is welcomed on what those “excellence” criteria or process could entail via email at info@phaboard.org.

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.