



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Standards & Measures Version 2022 uses the [10 Essential Public Health Services](#) as its framework, and highlights measures that correspond to the cross-cutting skills and capacities listed in the [Foundational Public Health Capabilities](#).

Below are frequently asked questions as it relates to the Standards & Measures Version 2022, updated March 25, 2022.

TIMING AND ROLLOUT OF VERSION 2022

Where can I find more details about Version 2022?

Visit phaboard.org/version2022 to find the official Version 2022 documents, including the Standards & Measures for Initial Accreditation and Reaccreditation and the Policy for Initial Accreditation and Reaccreditation. This is your best source of information about the requirements, process, and policies for Version 2022.

[Learn more about fees >](#)

[Additional guidance and information >](#)

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 applying for initial accreditation using Version 2022 will use the new fee schedule. Visit [the website](#) for more details.

Health departments whose application for *reaccreditation* has a current due date in the year 2022 or will be due in 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 choose 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 of up to one year. Go to phaboard.org/version2022 for more details for health departments determining which version of the reaccreditation Standards & Measures to use.

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.

How should our health department decide which version of the Standards & Measures to use?

You can start by reviewing the Version 2022 Standards & Measures and looking at the high-level crosswalks to understand some of the changes. If you have already begun compiling documentation and developing coversheets using a current version, you may want to stick with that version as there has been considerable rearrangement of requirements in order to streamline the measures and better align with the Essential Public Health Services and Foundational Public Health Services models. However, we encourage you to seriously consider Version 2022 because it incorporates so much feedback from the field, addresses equity more thoroughly, includes more robust requirements related to preparedness, and provides additional details about what is required.

My Reaccreditation Application is scheduled to open in calendar year 2023, will I have the option to choose which version of the Standards & Measures to use?

No. The option to choose between versions is only available for health departments with Applications due in the 2022 calendar year. However, if your Reaccreditation Application is opening in the 2023 calendar year and you need additional time to prepare, you may submit an extension request. Per the Extension Request Policy (see Appendix 2 in the Policy for Reaccreditation, Version 2022) extensions for future statuses may be submitted no more than 180 days prior to the health department entering that step in the process. However, because we want to ensure sufficient time to prepare, we will accept extension applications starting now from health departments that were accredited in February or May of 2018.

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.

I've heard that e-PHAB is being replaced. What do I need to know about the new electronic system?

We are excited to be rolling out a new version of e-PHAB. The plan is to launch in July. Training on the new system will be made available. Health departments applying for Version 2022 will do so using the new e-PHAB. For health departments that are currently in process or that begin the process in the current electronic system, we will transfer information (including documentation uploaded for the current cycle) to the new system. Documents from previous cycles of accreditation will be available for a health department to download. The new system might have the documents from previous accreditation cycles accessible to the health department in a "library" rather than linked to specific measure requirements for older versions (e.g., version 1.0). PHAB will be providing additional details about the transition as the time approaches.

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.

CHANGES IN VERSION 2022 STANDARDS & MEASURES

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 are some new measures, we have streamlined the existing requirements and reduced duplication where it exists in the previous versions. 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.

Will a crosswalk be developed between versions?

A high-level crosswalk is available on the [Version 2022 webpage](#).

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 eight 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 eight capabilities: 1) Assessment and Surveillance, 2) Emergency Preparedness and Response, 3) Policy Development and Support, 4) Communications, 5) Community Partnership Development, 6) Organizational Competencies, 7) Accountability and Performance Management, and 8) Equity. 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.

PREPARING TO USE THE NEW STANDARDS & MEASURES

Our health department is considering applying for initial accreditation. How can we know if we’re ready?

A Readiness Assessment will be available to help health departments determine whether they have documentation that aligns with initial accreditation requirements. Health departments will submit this to PHAB and receive feedback about items to consider in their preparation for accreditation or for [Pathways](#).

We noticed there are a few changes in the requirements for the major plans. What should we do if we recently developed a Community Health Assessment or Community Health Improvement Plan?

The main elements of most major plans do not have significant changes in Version 2022. 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 has 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. 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. If your current CHA or CHIP is missing a requirement, you may include it in an addendum. Remember to appropriately engage the appropriate entity or partnership that has “ownership” of the plan when adding addendums to ensure that the process for development and revision of major plans is also being followed.

We participated in the public vetting. Are the final measures very different from the ones in the vetting?

Thank you for sharing your feedback with PHAB! We received approximately [700 comments](#) from the field and we believe those suggestions really strengthened the final Standards & Measures. For the most part, the changes that were made based on the vetting feedback were more about adding clarity, rather than changing the substance of the requirements. However, we received a large number of comments about the requirements related to data collection, sharing, and analysis and adjusted Standards 1.2 and 1.3 accordingly.

What if I have a question about how to interpret a specific measure in Version 2022?

We encourage you to start by reading the Measure—including the Purpose & Significance statement, and both the Required Documentation and Guidance columns—carefully and consider it in the context of the Standard and Domain. If questions remain, please reach out to your assigned Accreditation Specialist. If you do not have an assigned Accreditation Specialist, email askPHAB@phaboard.org. PHAB will be collecting questions and will provide additional guidance as we identify areas that are not clear. [Additional guidance >](#)

When will trainings for Version 2022 be available?

We are excited to be completely revamping our educational offerings. Our aim is to have the new trainings available in July and will notify health departments that need to complete the trainings as they become available (e.g., health departments with Applications due in the 2022 calendar year that indicate they will use Version 2022 will be contacted by their Accreditation Specialist). Stay tuned to the [PHAB Resources webpage](#) for updates as training opportunities become available.

PROCESS AND POLICY CHANGES

What are the major changes to the accreditation process?

Health departments are encouraged to review the applicable policy document for a complete understanding of the accreditation process:

- [Policy for Initial Accreditation](#), Version 2022
- [Policy for Reaccreditation](#), Version 2022
- [Supplement to Guide to Initial Accreditation for Version 1.5](#)
- [Supplement to Guide to Reaccreditation for Version 2016](#)

The table below highlights some of the major changes but does not supersede the Policy documents or Addendums.

Process	Change	Applies to
Timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All health departments will have 45 days for the response to the pre-Site Visit Review questions. • For reaccreditation, health departments will have 6 months for documentation submission and 12 months for ACAR. 	V2022 Initial & Reaccred AND current version
Pre-application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For initial accreditation, health departments will have access to some on-demand training resources prior to application. After health departments pay the PHAB Readiness & Training Fee, they will gain access to live, virtual training, will be able to submit a Readiness Assessment to PHAB, and will receive feedback on that assessment. 	V2022 Initial
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation that is required in Initial Accreditation, but not “assessed” such as the organizational chart and budget has been moved from Documentation Submission to the Application. 	V2022 Initial & Reaccred
Pre-Site Visit Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The submission of documentation created or revised after the original submission date will continue to be permitted during the response to the pre-site visit review and site visit. • The New Review Model that has been in a pilot since mid-2020 has been adopted (i.e., PHAB AS conducts the first review of documentation and drafts conformity comments, the peer reviewers are engaged after the health department responds to Reopened measures). 	V2022 Initial & Reaccred AND current version
Site Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHAB staff will provide health departments with the measure numbers that will be discussed during the site visit for Initial and Reaccreditation, in advance so that health departments can prepare. • As long as conditions allow, site visits for initial accreditation will be conducted in a hybrid fashion (for example, with the Accreditation Specialist and the Site Visit Team Chair visiting the health department in person with other sessions involving 	V2022 Initial & Reaccred AND current version

	<p>the other members of the Site Visit Team being held by videoconference).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAB will determine whether the site visits for reaccreditation are held virtually, in person, or a hybrid approach. During the 2022 calendar year, reaccreditation site visits will be held virtually. PHAB will update the field prior to instituting in person or hybrid site visits for reaccreditation. 	
Site Visit Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4-point assessment categories will be used for both Initial and Reaccreditation (Fully, Largely, Slightly, Not Demonstrated). Conformity comments in Initial and Reaccreditation will include specific comments on any required elements that are missing, and a summary level comment on how the health department was in conformity with requirements. 	V2022 Initial & Reaccred
Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a health department does not Fully/Largely demonstrate a Foundational Capability measure, the health department will need to work on it through an ACAR or will be required to provide documentation in the first Annual Report, which will be assessed for conformity. 	V2022 Initial & Reaccred
Annual Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHAB is currently undergoing a design thinking process to modify the Annual Reports. More details are forthcoming. 	Annual Reports for v2022 AND current version
Reaccreditation Specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Population Health Outcomes, one example must show disaggregated data by subpopulation. Health departments must describe health department plans for advancement related to at minimum 3 measures using the form provided by PHAB. They will be asked about progress on these measures as part of the Annual Reporting process. (This replaces the current “continued advancement” reporting process) 	V2022 Reaccred
Extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revised extension policy and procedure implemented as a response to the COVID pandemic will remain in effect. This revision allows the Accreditation Specialist to grant a health department an extension up to 90-days. Extensions longer than 90-days require the health department to submit an extension request form, which is reviewed by Senior Management. 	V2022 Initial & Reaccred AND current version
Appeals & Complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The appeals and complaints processes have been revised and can be found as appendices to the Policy documents. 	V2022 Initial & Reaccred AND current version

Will the Annual Reports be modified as well?

PHAB is currently undergoing a Design Thinking process to revamp the Annual Reporting process to ensure it supports health departments in their continuous improvement and in their reaccreditation preparation. Details about the new Annual Report process will be released later in 2022. When they are ready, we will communicate with the field, and provide time for the health department to plan accordingly. PHAB understands that health departments begin work on the Annual Report months in advance so we wouldn't make a change effective without several months' notice.

Will I have to use a coversheet to submit documentation for Version 2022?

Yes, we have revamped the coversheets and now refer to them as Documentation Forms. You will have to fill out a form for each item uploaded into e-PHAB. You can access the forms by visiting the [PHAB Resources webpage](#). You'll notice that the Required Documentation column of the Standards & Measures indicates specific evidence where partial demonstration of the requirements can be included within the Documentation Form.

Are there other policy changes I should be aware of?

In March 2021, PHAB revised its Scope of Authority policy to include more population-based services and interventions, and be more inclusive of activities at the core of health department work. Visit the [Scope of Authority](#) webpage to learn more, including to view a table of examples of types of documentation that are considered in and out of PHAB's scope.

OTHER

How can I get a printed copy of the new Standards & Measures?

We anticipate that the printed copies of the Standards & Measures will be available for purchase through the PHAB online store starting in May. One hard copy of the Standards & Measures for either Initial Accreditation or for Pathways will be sent to health departments when they submit their PHAB Readiness & Training Fee. For health departments that are due for reaccreditation in the year 2022, we will mail one hard copy of the reaccreditation Standards & Measures to those health departments that indicate they will be using Version 2022. In the future, we will mail one hard copy of Version 2022 Reaccreditation Standards & Measures at least one year before the Standards & Measures application for reaccreditation opens.

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 in spring 2022.

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.