

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**



**Open Government Report 2014**

To institutionalize a culture of transparent and open government, accountability, and to expand opportunities for resident participation and collaboration, this Report describes how the Department of Health has and will continue to develop and enhance transparency, public participation, and collaboration. In accordance with Mayor's Order 2014-170, this report addresses the following topics:

**1) Transparency**

- *Information is shared with the public through multiple avenues including publishing information in the District of Columbia Register, posting on the agency's website, issuing press releases, making information releases for residents and visitors, making information releases for health professionals and health facilities, responding to Freedom of Information Act requests, placing materials in the agency's FOIAXpress reading room, emailing distribution groups, sending text messages, and using Twitter.*
- *The Department of Health is responsive to Freedom of Information Act requests. The Department of Health implemented FOIAXpress in 2014 to better meet its obligations under the District's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Department of Health complies with its obligations under the Open Meetings Act by publishing schedules of meetings in the D.C. Register and posting the schedules, minutes, and other materials on the webpages of the pertinent program. The Department of Health has Open Government and FOIA webpages at <http://doh.dc.gov/page/open-government-and-foia-doh>.*
- *The Department of Health is working to increase the amount of materials on its webpages, including those posted on the FOIA and Open Government webpages and those posted to the FOIAXpress Reading Room.*
- *The Department of Health supports the health occupation boards and is advised by the State Health Coordinating Council. The Department of Health has begun to explore the possibility of webcasting live and archiving on the internet the meetings of the health occupation boards and the State Health Coordinating Council.*
- *The Department of Health is working closely with the Office of the City Administrator (OCA) and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) to identify a significant number of datasets that OCA and OCTO expect to*

*publish online later this year. If no dataset from the Department of Health is selected to be included in this 2014 release, we will continue to work with OCA and OCTO to identify datasets appropriate to publish in 2015. In the future, requirements for open data reporting will be provided by the District's Chief Data Officer.*

- *The Department of Health provides data or links to data on its website (example: <http://doh.dc.gov/node/139482>) and in its publications such as the DC Healthy People 2020 report available at <http://doh.dc.gov/page/dc-healthy-people-2020>.*

## 2) **Public Engagement and Participation**

- *The Department of Health's emergency, proposed, and final rulemakings are available via [www.dcregs.dc.gov](http://www.dcregs.dc.gov). Proposed comments are received via the comment function of [www.dcregs.dc.gov](http://www.dcregs.dc.gov), email, U.S. mail, courier, and hand delivery. Rulemakings are often posted with other information related to specific programs on their webpages. For example, the regulations governing hospitals are shown at <http://doh.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/doh/publication/attachments/Hospitals.pdf>. Hard copies of proposed rulemakings are available at the Office of the General Counsel during the time that public comments may be submitted. Rulemakings are often sent directly to those persons and entities known to have a strong interest in the regulations.*
- *The Department of Health shares information and resources to keep the public properly informed through public meetings, public hearings, Frequently Asked Questions distributed by via electronic means and hard copy means, Twitter, press conferences, media briefings, email distribution lists, community meetings, newsletters, and advisories. Examples: Information for the Resilient DC program, which strengthens our community's ability to "bounce back" from emergencies and disasters, is posted at <http://doh.dc.gov/resilience>. The Pharmaceutical Control Division, in conjunction with the Board of Pharmacy, posted Pharmacy Policy Statements at <http://doh.dc.gov/node/158712>.*
- *The public may provide comments via Twitter, public meetings, public hearings, [www.dcregs.dc.gov](http://www.dcregs.dc.gov), email, telephone, facsimile, U.S. mail, courier, hand delivery, personal appearances, and community meetings.*
- *The Department of Health identifies stakeholders who are impacted, or who will be impacted, by the actions of the Department of Health. The Department of Health also welcomes stakeholders who self-identify. The Department of Health then invites the stakeholders to participate in discussions leading to agency decision-making. Example: The Director of the Department of Health engaged the District of Columbia Hospital Association and the District's acute care hospitals in discussions surrounding Ebola preparedness.*

- *The Department of Health participates in Grade DC and monitors Twitter in addition to receiving public feedback via the Ask The Director web function, email, mail, text messages, and telephone calls.*

### 3) **Collaboration**

- *The Department of Health collaborates with other District agencies, the federal government, the public, and non-profit and private entities in fulfilling its obligations.*
- *Example: When Ebola became an issue for the United States, the Department of Health created webpages found at <http://ebola.dc.gov> and <http://doh.dc.gov/page/ebola-information> to provide up-to-date and reliable information regarding Ebola preparedness and response for the sister agencies, the public, health facilities, health professionals, and non-profit and private entities.*
- *Example: The Department of Health maintains webpages on grant funding found at <http://doh.dc.gov/service/grant-funding> to aid the public as well as non-profit and private entities.*
- *In order to improve collaboration, the Department of Health participates in Grade DC, participates in community meetings, and utilizes Twitter, the Ask The Director Function, email, mail, text messages, and telephone calls. Information on how to use these methods of collaboration is found at <http://doh.dc.gov/>.*