

Environmental Health

Mandate: Protection of health



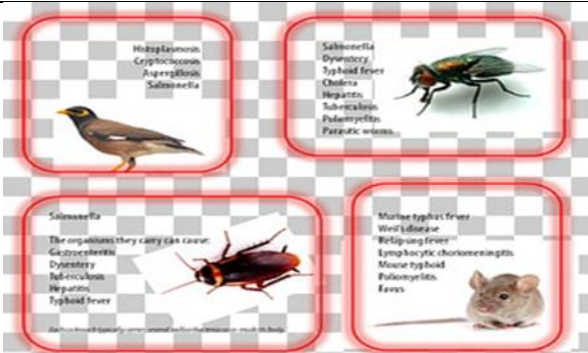
Environmental Health draws its mandate from the Lesotho Constitution 1993. Section 27(Protection of health) of the constitution which indicates that Lesotho shall adopt policies aimed at ensuring the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for its citizens, including policies designed to - (a) provide for the reduction of stillbirth rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child; (b) **improve environmental and industrial hygiene;** (c) **provide for the prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases;** (d) create conditions which would assure to all, medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness; and (e) **improve public health.**

Overall objective: To prevent and control Environment related diseases and other conditions of public health importance in Lesotho.

Services:

Environmental Health services are provided in all districts of Lesotho through the District Environmental Health offices under the guidance of Environmental Health Department's Head Quarters team.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

| OBJECTIVE | FUNCTIONS |
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| Water Sanitation and hygiene To Promote Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Practices in Schools, Health Facilities and communities. |  |
| Housing To protect humans against housing related diseases and conditions |  |
| Vector and Rodent control To reduce disease incidence attributable to vector and rodent infestation |  |

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| <p>Health Care Waste Management</p> <p>To minimise the adverse impacts of health care waste on the environment and on public health</p> |  |
| <p>Port Health</p> <p>To reduce health risks associated with cross border movement of persons, baggage, car-go conveyances, and human remains.</p> |  |
| <p>Food Hygiene and Safety</p> <p>To protect consumers against unsafe food</p> |  |
| <p>Pollution control</p> <p>To mitigate negative health impacts of environmental pollutants in Lesotho</p> |  |
| <p>Occupational Health and Safety</p> <p>To promote health, hygiene and safety of Lesotho workforce</p> |  |
| <p>Emergency Preparedness and Response</p> <p>To mitigate risk factors associated with environmental emergencies and disasters.</p> |  |

For more information about Environmental Health services in the country please contact the following numbers: +266 22325608

Currently Environmental Health officers (EHOs) are engaged in the public sensitization about corona virus disease (covid-19) pandemic as part of the ministry of health Epidemic Preparedness and Response team. In addition to the sensitization activities, environmental health district offices have also reinforced the port health services with more staff and resources in order to ensure that the screening of the travellers from other countries at the designated points of entry throughout the country is efficiently and effectively implemented.

The following are some of the messages that Environmental Health officers provide to the public about the corona virus disease prevention and control measures:

- Regular and thorough cleaning of hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or washing them with soap and water.
- Maintaining at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention early