



Cass County Health, Human & Veterans Services

The mission of Cass County is to deliver quality public services to the citizens in an effective, professional and efficient manner.

www.co.cass.mn.us

Walker Office
P.O. Box 519
Walker, MN 56484
218-547-1340
218-547-1448 HS Fax
218-547-7232 PH Fax

Backus Office
P.O. Box 51
Backus, MN 56435
218-947-7530
218-947-7525 Fax

MN Statutes of Public Health Nuisance Laws

Public Health Nuisance Defined

145A.02 Subd. 17. Public health nuisance. "Public health nuisance" means any activity or failure to act that adversely affects the public health.

Board of Health Statutes:

145A.04 POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD OF HEALTH.

Subdivision 1. Jurisdiction; enforcement. A county or multicounty board of health has the powers and duties of a board of health for all territory within its jurisdiction not under the jurisdiction of a city board of health. Under the general supervision of the commissioner, the board shall enforce laws, regulations, and ordinances pertaining to the powers and duties of a board of health within its jurisdictional area.

Subd. 2. Appointment of agent. A board of health must appoint, employ, or contract with a person or persons to act on its behalf. The board shall notify the commissioner of the agent's name, address, and phone number where the agent may be reached between board meetings and submit a copy of the resolution authorizing the agent to act on the board's behalf.

Public Health Nuisance Statutes:

Subd. 7. **Entry for inspection.** To enforce public health laws, ordinances or rules, a member or agent of a board of health may enter a building, conveyance, or place where contagion, infection, filth, or other source or cause of preventable disease exists or is reasonably suspected.

Subd. 8. **Removal and abatement of public health nuisances.** (a) If a threat to the public health such as a public health nuisance, source of filth, or cause of sickness is found on any property, the board of health or its agent shall order the owner or occupant of the property to remove or abate the threat within a time specified in the notice but not longer than ten days. Action to recover costs of enforcement under this subdivision must be taken as prescribed in section 145A.08.

(b) Notice for abatement or removal must be served on the owner, occupant, or agent of the property in one of the following ways:

- (1) by registered or certified mail;
- (2) by an officer authorized to serve a warrant; or
- (3) by a person aged 18 years or older who is not reasonably believed to be a party to any action arising from the notice.

(c) If the owner of the property is unknown or absent and has no known representative upon whom notice can be served, the board of health or its agent shall post a written or printed notice on the property stating that, unless the threat to the public health is abated or removed within a period not longer than ten days, the board will have the threat abated or removed at the expense of the owner under section 145A.08 or other applicable state or local law.

(d) If the owner, occupant, or agent fails or neglects to comply with the requirement of the notice provided under paragraphs (b) and (c), then the board of health or its agent shall remove or abate the nuisance, source of filth, or cause of sickness described in the notice from the property.

Subd. 9. Injunctive relief. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, the board of health may bring an action in the court of appropriate jurisdiction to enjoin a violation of statute, rule, or ordinance that the board has power to enforce, or to enjoin as a public health nuisance any activity or failure to act that adversely affects the public health.

Subd. 10. Hindrance of enforcement prohibited; penalty. It is a misdemeanor deliberately to hinder a member of a board of health or its agent from entering a building, conveyance, or place where contagion, infection, filth, or other source or cause of preventable disease exists or is reasonably suspected, or otherwise to interfere with the performance of the duties of the board of health.

Subd. 11. Neglect of enforcement prohibited; penalty. It is a misdemeanor for a member or agent of a board of health to refuse or neglect to perform a duty imposed on a board of health by statute or ordinance.

Subd. 12. Other powers and duties established by law. This section does not limit powers and duties of a board of health prescribed in other sections.

Cost of Abatement:

145A.08 ASSESSMENT OF COSTS; TAX LEVY AUTHORIZED.

Subd. 2. Assessment of costs of enforcement. (a) If costs are assessed for enforcement of section 145A.04, subdivision 8, and no procedure for the assessment of costs has been specified in an agreement established under section 145A.07, the enforcement costs must be assessed as prescribed in this subdivision.

(b) A debt or claim against an individual owner or single piece of real property resulting from an enforcement action authorized by section 145A.04, subdivision 8, must not exceed the cost of abatement or removal.

(c) The cost of an enforcement action under section 145A.04, subdivision 8, may be assessed and charged against the real property on which the public health nuisance, source of filth, or cause of sickness was located. The auditor of the county in which the action is taken shall extend the cost so assessed and charged on the tax roll of the county against the real property on which the enforcement action was taken.

(d) The cost of an enforcement action taken by a town or city board of health under section 145A.04, subdivision 8, may be recovered from the county in which the town or city is located if the city clerk or other officer certifies the costs of the enforcement action to the county auditor as prescribed in this section. Taxes equal to the full amount of the enforcement action but not exceeding the limit in paragraph (b) must be collected by the county treasurer and paid to the city or town as other taxes are collected and paid.

Subd. 3. Tax levy authorized. A city council or county board that has formed or is a member of a board of health may levy taxes on all taxable property in its jurisdiction to pay the cost of performing its duties under this chapter.

Inspector Business Card Attached