



# Interoperability MATTERS

an initiative of The Sequoia Project

## Public Health Workgroup

# Public Health Workgroup Charter

The Public Health Workgroup focuses on key topics, challenges and opportunities for states and other public health authorities impacting interoperability, information exchange and health IT modernization and digitization. We are specifically targeting Public Health departments, as well as other state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) entities with public health responsibilities.

**Policy and/or regulatory**

**Programmatic challenges**

**Data and/or data privacy**

**Security**

**Modernization (data, policy, etc.)**

**Funding and resources**

**Communications**

**Community of Practice**

## Public Health Workgroup Membership

- **The Public Health Workgroup is made of up 25 individuals from across the country who bring deep levels of subject matter and “boots on the ground” expertise to the workgroup’s discussions. This expertise comes from Public Health (agencies and STLTs), Medicaid, Emergency Preparedness, Health IT Policy and Security and other Public Health organizations such as ASTHO**
- **The Workgroup is co-chaired by Nora Cox from Texas e-Health Alliance and by Chris Baumgartner from the Washington State Public Health Office.**
- **The workgroup meets monthly (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month). Each workgroup meeting starts off with an innovations discussion. This allows members to provide information about new and interesting technologies or tools implemented to expand interoperability**

## Workgroup Deliverables

**While the workgroup's primary focus is to provide its members with a community of practice where specific areas of expertise come together to learn from each other, share best practices and collectively work to improve public health interoperability, there are written deliverables as well**

**The first of these deliverables is entitled “Pandemic Response Insights and Recommendations” and can be found here: [The Sequoia Project](#).**

## A sample of Pandemic Response Insights and Recommendations:

- Reconcile big ideas with realism
- Build on existing infrastructure
- Leverage lessons from other states
- Address policy confusion
- Understand and leverage funding opportunities as they become available
- Develop funding sustainability and matches processes where possible
- Identify state and local emergency response workforce resources and capabilities

**Ease legislative policy and regulatory constraints for data sharing**

**Address public health IT Infrastructure and staffing resources**

**Evaluate data analytics capabilities**

**Share communications strategies**

## Next Deliverable Coming Soon! (January 2025)

- During its discussions while creating the Pandemic Response Insights and Recommendations deliverable, it became clear that addressing policy and regulatory challenges within states and STLTs (state, territorial, local and tribal) is of paramount importance for public health to progress data exchange and interoperability
- To that end, the Workgroup will release a **Public Health Interoperability Policy Roadmap** in January 2025

## Public Health Interoperability Policy Roadmap – what’s included?

- This deliverable provides steps along a roadmap with recommendations for completing these steps that lead to greater and more effective data exchange within the public health ecosystem
- Additionally, the deliverable provides general timelines for completing the tasks along the roadmap and how each task depends on or aligns with other tasks within the roadmap
- Utilizing the experience of the workgroup members, this deliverable provides a compilation of best practices involving policy and regulatory challenges within state agencies and STLTs that aims to enable greater interoperability among public health agencies and STLTs.

# The Future of the Public Health Workgroup

- The workgroup would like to expand its membership!
- Please reach out to Debbie Condrey at [dcondrey@sequoiaproject.org](mailto:dcondrey@sequoiaproject.org) if you are interested in joining