

# **Powers of the County Health Officer**

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# County Health Officer



## Counties with Health Departments

“...the local board of health may appoint a full time or part time health officer...” (W.S. 35-1-305(a))

- Campbell, Laramie, Natrona, Sweetwater and Teton

Vacancies on the local board of health are filled by the board of county commissioners and/or city governing body and the appointing governing body may remove members (not county health officer) “for cause[.]” (W.S. 35-1-302)

# County Health Officer



## Counties without Health Departments

“the boards of county commissioners...shall appoint the county...health officer...” (W.S. 35-1-306(a))

Term of office shall be four years unless removed by the board of county commissioners. (W.S. 35-1-306(a))

# County Health Officer



Shall have a degree of **doctor of medicine** (W.S. 35-1-302(b) and 35-1-306(a)).

Shall **assist the state department of health** in carrying out the provisions of all health and sanitary laws and regulations of the state. (W.S. 35-1-306(a)).

Shall be **under the direction and supervision of the state department of health**, and the state department of health shall have authority to make such rules and regulations for the government and direction of said county health officers. (W.S. 35-1-227) All such **regulations shall be of “force and binding” upon all county health officers.** (W.S. 35-1-229(a))

# Department of Health



The department of health, through the state health officer ... shall have and exercise the following powers and duties:

(ii) To **investigate and control** the causes of epidemic, endemic, communicable, ... diseases ... affecting the public health;

(iii) To **establish, maintain and enforce isolation and quarantine ... to exercise such physical control over property and over the persons of the people within this state** as the state health officer may find necessary for the protection of the public health;

(iv) To **close theaters, schools and other public places, and to forbid gatherings of people** when necessary to protect the public health;

(xxi) During a public health emergency ... the state health officer may **prescribe pharmaceutical or therapeutic interventions en masse** as necessary to protect the public health; ... (W.S. 35-1-240)

# Department of Health



## County Quarantine

The department of health shall ... after the receipt of information that there is any ... infectious or contagious disease ... in any portion of this state, order the county health officer to ... investigate the case ... The state health officer shall ... if in his judgment the occasion requires, **direct the county health officer to declare the infected place to be in quarantine.** The county health officer shall **place any restrictions upon ingress and egress** at this location as in his judgment or in the judgment of the state health officer are necessary to prevent the spread of the disease from the infected locality. The county health officer shall upon declaring any city, town or other place to be in quarantine, **control the population of the city, town or other place** as in his judgment best protects the people and at the same time prevents the spread of the disease. (W.S. 35-4-103)

# Department of Health



## Enforcement

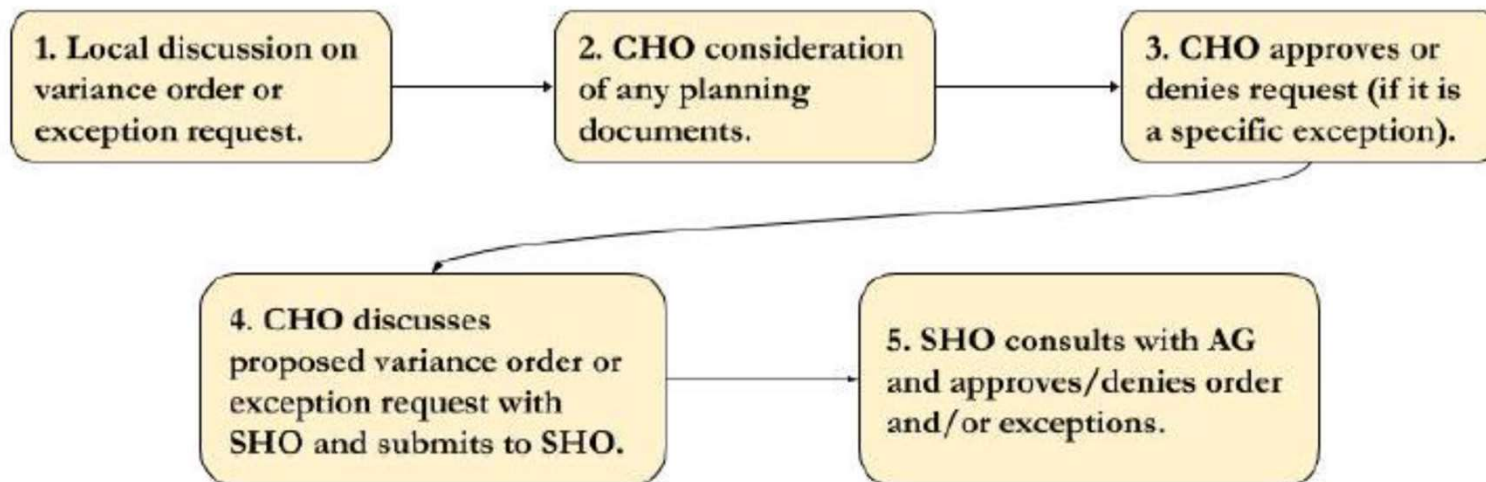
The county health officer or the department [of health] may **employ a sufficient number of police officers** who shall be under the control of the county health officer, to **enforce and carry out any quarantine regulations** the department may prescribe. The regulations shall be made public in the most practicable manner in the several counties, cities, towns or other places where the quarantine is established. (W.S. 35-4-103)

# Countywide Variances



## Process to Request Countywide Variance Orders and/or Exceptions

The following process shall be followed when requesting a countywide order or specific exception:



CHO = County Health Officer | SHO = State Health Officer | AG = Attorney General

# Commissioner Feedback



- Evaluate county health officer roles and obligations.
- Enhance data and information sharing.
- Ensure the response effort is focused on individual community needs.
- Improve supply chain management support.
- Review Wyoming's complex public health and emergency management system (federal, state and local).

# Questions?

