

# Disclaimer and Privacy Policy

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While the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) makes every effort to post accurate and reliable information, it does not guarantee or warrant that the information on this website is complete, accurate, or up to date. IDPH assumes no responsibility for using or applying any posted material. This website is intended solely to electronically provide the public with general health-related information and convenient access to data resources. IDPH assumes no responsibility for any error, omissions, or other discrepancies between the electronic and printed versions of documents.

IDPH cannot provide individual advice or counseling, whether medical, legal, or otherwise. If you are seeking specific advice or counseling, contact a licensed practitioner or professional, a social services agency representative, or an organization in your local community.

IDPH's website links to other websites maintained by other entities. Reasonable precautions are taken to link only to those sites that are appropriate, accurate, and maintained by reputable organizations. However, those webpages are not under IDPH's control and IDPH is not responsible for the information or opinions expressed in those linked sites.

## Privacy Policy

### Preamble

Pursuant to the fundamental philosophy of the American constitutional form of government, it is declared to be the public policy of the state of Illinois that all persons are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts and policies of those who represent them as public officials and public employees. Access to this information is not intended to be used to violate individual privacy, to further a commercial enterprise, or to disrupt the duly undertaken work of any public body independent of the fulfillment of any rights of the people to access information.

### Purpose

The purpose of the IDPH information services privacy policy is to clearly communicate IDPH's privacy expectations to users of its website. Users should expect complete privacy, except in the case of suspected wrongdoing.

## **Illinois Department of Public Health Privacy Statement**

Information collected and received through the IDPH website may become public record and, therefore, subject to disclosure under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. It is, therefore, the policy of IDPH that no personal information provided to the agency, including, but not limited to, name, address, telephone number, driver's license number, Social Security number, and email address, will be sold or rented to any entity or individual or disclosed to an unauthorized entity or individual. The release of personal information by the departments under the governor's control is limited, according to Illinois law, to state government agencies and/or to authorized department contractors or grantees.

### **Ownership**

Electronic files created, sent, received, or stored on computers owned, leased, administered, or otherwise under the custody and control of IDPH are the property of IDPH.

### **Personal Information and Choice**

"Personal information" about an individual is that which readily identifies a specific individual. Personal information includes identifiers such as an individual's name, address, phone number, driver's license number, and Social Security number. A domain name or internet protocol address is not considered personal information.

IDPH collects no personal information unless the user voluntarily participates in an activity that asks for such (e.g., sending an email or participating in a survey). If the user chooses not to participate in these activities, the choice will not affect the ability to use any other feature of state of Illinois websites. If personal information is requested on the website or is volunteered by the user, state law and the federal Privacy Act of 1974 (2020 Edition) may protect it. However, this information is a public record once it is provided to IDPH and may be subject to public inspection and copying if not protected by federal or state law.

### **Policies for Individuals Younger than 13 Years of Age**

The state of Illinois is committed to complying fully with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. Accordingly, if the user is younger than 13 years of age, they are not authorized to provide IDPH with personal identifying information, and IDPH will not use any such information in any database or other data collection activities. IDPH appreciates cooperation with this federally-mandated requirement. Users are cautioned that the collection of personal information volunteered by children online or by email will be treated the same as information given by an adult and may be subject to public access.

## **Public Access Privacy Policy**

The following statement applies only to members of the general public. It is intended to address concerns about the types of information gathered from the public, if any, and how that information is used.

### **I. Cookies**

A "cookie" is a small file containing information that a web server places on a user's computer. Typically, these files are used to enhance the user's experience of the site, help users move between pages in a database, or customize information for a user.

Several IDPH web pages are set up to use "cookies" to enhance a user's experience with the site. Cookies are text files placed on a user's computer to store preferences and session information only. By themselves, they do not reveal email addresses or other personally identifiable information unless the user chooses to provide this information.

### **II. Logs and Network Monitoring**

IDPH maintains log files of all access to its site and monitors network traffic for the purposes of site management. This information is used to help diagnose server problems and to carry out other administrative tasks. Log analysis tools are also used to create summary statistics to determine which information is of most interest to users, to identify system problem areas, or to help determine technical requirements.

Information such as the following is collected in these files:

- Date and time: date and time user access the site.
- Client IP address: IP address the client is coming from.
- Username: name of the user who accesses the website
- Service name: internet service that was running on the client computer.
- Server IP: IP of the server where the log file was generated.
- Server name: name of the server where the log file was generated.
- Hostname: hostname and/or IP address of the computer requesting access to the site.
- User-Agent: type of browser, its version, and the operating system of the computer requesting access (e.g., Netscape 4 for Windows, IE 4 for Macintosh, etc.).
- Referrer: Web page the user came from.
- System date: date and time on the server at the time of access.
- Full request: exact request the user made.
- Status: status code the server returned (e.g., fulfilled request, file not found).
- Content length: size, in bytes, of the file sent to the user.

- Method: the request method used by the browser (e.g., post, get).
- Universal Resource Identifier (URI): the location of the particular resource requested (e.g., web page, CGI program, or script).
- Query string of the URI: anything after a question mark in a URI. For example, if a keyword search has been requested, the search word will appear in the query string.
- HTTP status: status of the action, in HTTP terms.
- WIN32 status: status of the action in NT terms.
- Bytes sent: number of bytes sent by the server.
- Bytes received: number of bytes received by the server.
- Time taken: length of time the action took.
- Protocol: technical protocol and version used (e.g., http 1.0, ftp, etc.).
- Cookie: the content of the cookie sent and received, if any.

The above information is not used in any way that would reveal personally identifiable information to outside parties unless IDPH is legally required to do so in connection with law enforcement investigations or other legal proceedings.

### **III. Email and Form Information**

If a member of the general public sends IDPH an email message or fills out a web-based form with a question or comment that contains personal identifying information, that information will only be used to respond to the request and to analyze trends. The message may be redirected to another government agency or person who is better able to answer the question. Such information is not used in any way that would reveal personal identifying information to outside parties unless IDPH is legally required to do so in connection with law enforcement investigations or other legal proceedings.

### **IV. Links**

This site may contain links to other sites. IDPH is not responsible for the privacy practices or the content of such websites.

### **V. Security**

This site has security measures in place to protect from loss, misuse, and alteration of the information.

Contacting the Illinois Department of Public Health about this Privacy Statement

If there are questions about this privacy statement, contact

[DPH.IQuery@illinois.gov](mailto:DPH.IQuery@illinois.gov).