




## MISSOURI PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY Reference

# HIPAA Resources for Local Public Health Agencies

1. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services hosts a comprehensive [website](#) regarding the HIPAA Privacy Rule that includes many useful guidance documents, tools, and training materials regarding HIPAA privacy and security regulations.
  - HHS materials focused on HIPAA and public health can be found [here](#).
  - The CDC and HHS have an excellent joint resource on HIPAA and Public Health: [HIPAA Privacy Rule and Public Health, Guidance from CDC and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#).
  - HHS has many FAQs regarding [Public Health Uses and Disclosures](#).
  - For more information on the disclosure of health information to family and friends, see “[A Health Care Provider’s Guide to the HIPAA Privacy Rule: Communicating with a Patient’s Family, Friends, or Others Involved in the Patient’s Care](#)”.
2. CMS has an excellent fact sheet on [HIPAA Basics for Providers: Privacy, Security, & Breach Notification Rules](#). It provides an easy to digest overview of HIPAA, includes links where you can learn more information on key topics, and the last page has a link to model Notices of Privacy Practices.
3. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) provides many resources and tools regarding health information privacy and security that are listed at [Health IT Privacy and Security Resources for Providers | HealthIT.gov](#). These include Security Risk Analysis Guidance and Security Risk Assessment Tool, sample business associate provisions, training modules on privacy and security, templates, and resources for protecting and securing health information on mobile devices.
4. The National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Computer Security Resource Center (CSRC) facilitates broad sharing of information security tools and practices, provides a resource for information security standards and guidelines, and identifies key security web resources to support users in industry, government, and academia. Visit CSRC at <http://csrc.nist.gov/>.

- 
5. The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response has a helpful [guide](#) on HIPAA and Disasters: What Emergency Professionals Need to Know. It includes information on how PHI may be used and shared during emergencies, as well as links to other helpful resources.
  6. HHS has [guidance](#) on data de-identification in accordance with HIPAA.
  7. George Washington University's Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program provides an online guide to federal and state laws governing access, use, release, and publication of health information. You can find materials focused on HIPAA [here](#).
    - [Here](#) you can find a review of Missouri laws related to health information generally.
    - This section contains an overview of [Missouri privacy and confidentiality laws](#).
    - [Here](#) is information on HIPAA and sharing information with immunization registries. This information is not specific to Missouri.
  8. [Guidance](#) on the release of information concerning deaths, epidemics or emerging diseases was developed by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Association of Health Care Journalists (AHCJ) to address the balance between informing the public and protecting privacy. This guidance is old (2011) but still contains important and relevant considerations about the release of health information.
  9. The Network for Public Health Law has several resources dedicated to [HIPAA hybrid entities](#) and how to conduct a HIPAA hybrid entity assessment.

This document was developed by Meghan Mead, JD, Acting Deputy Director, Network for Public Health Law – Mid-States Region. The Network for Public Health Law provides information and technical assistance on issues related to public health. The legal information and assistance provided in this document does not constitute legal advice or legal representation. For legal advice, please consult specific legal counsel.

February 2024

## SUPPORTERS

This work was made possible through a partnership with the Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence (MOCPHE) and funding from the Health Forward Foundation [Grant Number: FY22-03333]. Support for the Network is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The views expressed in this document do not represent the views of (and should not be attributed to) MOCPHE, the Health Forward Foundation, or RWJF.



