

# PHIN Requirements

## VERSION 2

The requirements for PHIN address interoperability for information systems. PHIN Requirements govern the exchange of data, a public health directory, and the availability and security of electronic information systems. They are focused on exchanging, communicating, and protecting data using electronic information systems, and they describe how information systems can support typical public health activities.

PHIN Requirements are available for download at [www.cdc.gov/phn](http://www.cdc.gov/phn)

The PHIN Requirements Version 2.0 state that *CDC requires that each state or local health department—or its agent—*

1. be able at any time to compose electronic messages using standard protocols, formats, and terminologies. **Compose Messages**
2. be able at any time to securely send to one or more recipients electronic messages composed using standard protocols, formats, and terminologies. **Send Messages**
3. be able at any time to securely receive, process, and interpret electronic messages sent using standard protocols, formats, and terminologies. **Receive and Process Messages**
4. be able to electronically enter, edit, and retrieve identifying and other information about persons, organizations, or other entities from an electronic directory that adheres to standard directory protocols, formats, and terminologies, and to which the department has authorized access.  
**Public Health Directory**
5. ensure that its electronic information systems that support PHIN requirements are secure and available at all times and the information contained is only accessed or used by authorized users for authorized purposes. **System Access, Security and Availability**

## PHIN Requirements Version 2.0 Benefits

- Restructured to provide clarity
- Provide flexibility in standards and guidelines to accommodate advances in technologies or best practices
- Focused on broader public health activities, not just preparedness
- Include public health activity structure relevant across public health program areas

## A History of the PHIN Requirements

In April 2005, CDC released the original PHIN Preparedness Functional Requirements with an emphasis on public health preparedness that was driven by the immediate need to upgrade the nation's public health capacity to respond to emergency events. Since the initial release in 2005, much has been learned as the national landscape for public health and health information technology has continued to evolve. Overarching national healthcare technology initiatives require that PHIN mature and evolve to achieve a high level of harmonization with the developing National Health Information Network (NHIN). Significant input from the public health community involved in PHIN is crucial to assure this harmonization. As a result, CDC undertook a collaborative process in 2006 to assess and retool the PHIN requirements. Working with the guidance and advice of these workgroups, CDC has rewritten and reorganized the previously published requirements to bring you the PHIN Requirements Version 2.

