

From: Elisabeth Klarqvist
To: Jean Wagenius
Date: 9/10/2018 2:24 PM
Subject: MDH authority re: public health

Rep. Wagenius, Janelle in my office forwarded to me your request for statutes giving the Health Department general authority to protect the public health. The following two sections authorize the commissioner of health to provide programs and services and adopt rules to protect the public health:

[Section 144.05, subd. 1](#) gives the commissioner of health responsibility for developing and maintaining an organized system of programs and services for protecting, maintaining, and improving the health of citizens, including:

- conducting studies and investigations and collecting health and vital data (para. (a));
- planning, facilitating, coordinating, providing, and supporting the organization of services for the prevention and control of illness and disease and the limitation of disabilities resulting therefrom (para. (b)); and
- establishing and enforcing health standards for the protection and promotion of the public's health such as quality of health services, reporting of disease, regulation of health facilities, environmental health hazards and personnel (para. (c)).

[Section 144.12, subd. 1](#) authorizes the commissioner to adopt reasonable rules pursuant to chapter 14 for the preservation of the public health. (This provision also gives the commissioner specific authority to control by rule, licensing or permitting, or other appropriate means, the pollution of streams and other waters and the distribution of water by persons for drinking or domestic use (clause 5), and the accumulation of filthy and unwholesome matter to the injury of the public health and its removal (clause 9).)

Janelle also relayed your request for information about or access to any MDH study that detected NDMA (N-Nitrosodimethylamine) at levels above the MDH guidance value of 0.005 parts per billion. MDH's 2017 [fact sheet on NDMA and drinking water](#) states that during the 2008-2010 time period in which drinking water was tested for NDMA, NDMA was detected in drinking water at levels up to 0.08 micrograms per liter. A footnote to this statistic refers to data in the Minnesota Drinking Water Information System. I have not found a public portal to the Minnesota Drinking Water Information System, nor have I found any additional studies, information, or specific data about NDMA levels in Minnesota waters. I asked MDH for data on levels of NDMA detected in Minnesota's drinking water, and I will send you any information I receive.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

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