MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH &
SENIOR SERVICES

Bureau of Environmental Health Regulation and Licensure

Dusty Johnson

Topics to Discuss

- Bureau of Environmental Health Regulation and Licensure
- Environmental Health Operational Guidelines (EHOG)
- LPHA – BEHRL Partnership

Bureau of Environmental Health Regulation and Licensure

The Bureau of Environmental Health Regulation and Licensure (BEHRL) is a unit within the Division of Regulation and Licensure that oversees Environmental Health in Missouri.

BEHRL is organized into three units: Program Operations, Field Operations and Administration.

BEHRL staff within our Field Operations unit are the staff actively working with our LPHAs in your jurisdictions.

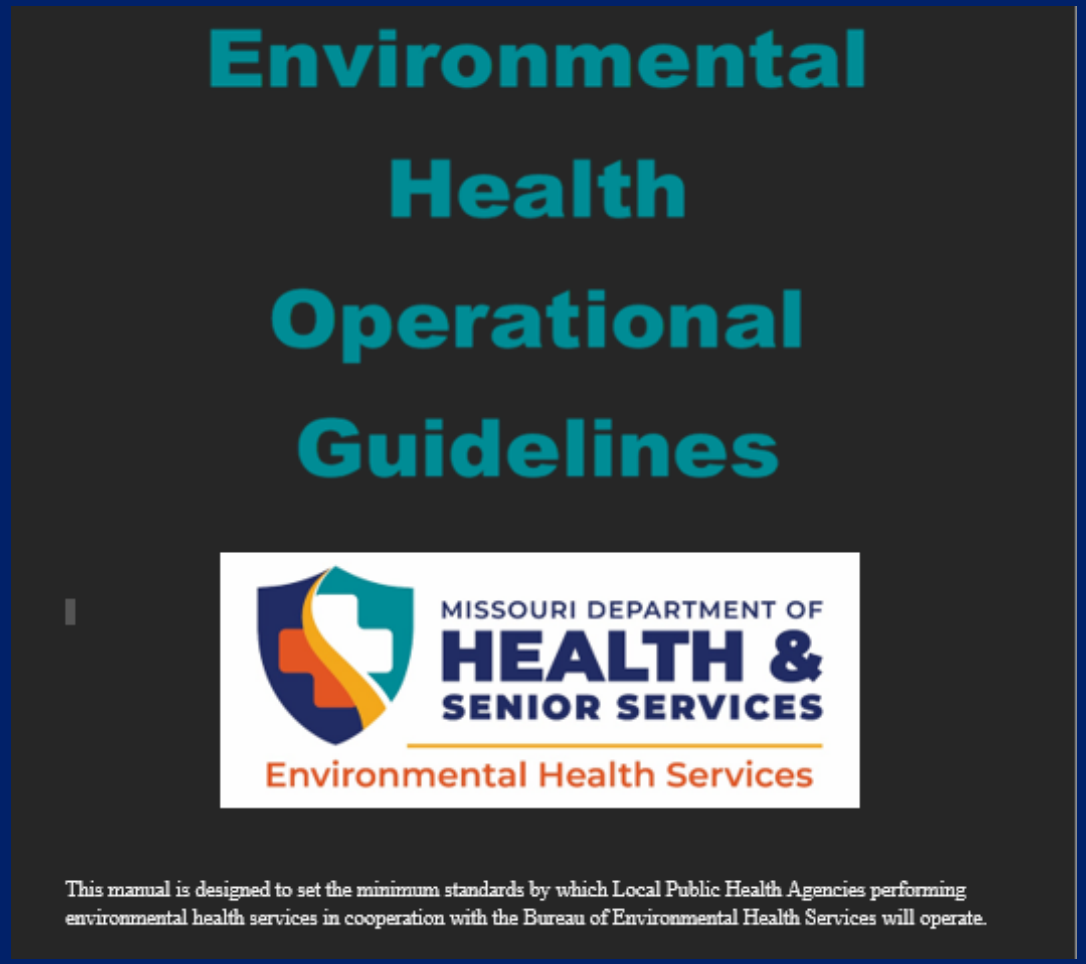
Bureau of Environmental Health Regulation and Licensure

BEHRL contains 7 environmental programs:

- Retail Food
- Lodging Licensing
- Child Care Sanitation
- Onsite Wastewater Treatment
- Lead Licensing
- Manufactured Food
- Legionella Control and Prevention

EHOG

- The Environmental Health Operational Guidelines (EHOG) is the handbook of an Environmental Health Specialist.
- This 219-page manual contains practices, processes and procedures for providing the services expected of a Local Environmental Health Program in Missouri.
- Designed to maintain consistency throughout the state by establishing clear minimum standards for operations.



EHOG

What services does the EHOG cover?

- Environmental Health Fundamentals
- Food Safety
- Lodging, Safety and Sanitation
- Emergency Response
- Onsite Wastewater Treatment
- Environmental Child Care
- Drinking Water
- General Environmental Health

EHOG

Environmental Health Fundamentals

- Using the EHOG
- Fundamentals of Environmental Public Health
- Bureau of Environmental Health Regulation and Licensure
- Environmental Public Health Specialist
- Legal Authority
- Forms and Documentation
- Documentation
- Inspection Fundamentals

EHOG

Food Safety

- Retail Food Protection and Enforcement Guidelines
- Farmers Markets, Fairs, Festivals and Temporary Events
- Recall Procedures
- Food Borne Illness Investigations
- Special Approval Process
- Collection of Food Samples for Laboratory Analysis
- Product Tampering
- Summer Food and At-Risk Inspections

EHOG

Lodging, Safety and Sanitation

- Sanitation and Safety Guidelines
- Requirements for Licensing
- Sanitation/Housekeeping
- Life Safety
- Fire Safety
- Swimming Pools/Spas
- Plumbing/Mechanical
- Heating, Venting and Air Conditioning Equipment
- Enforcement Guidelines

EHOG

Emergency Response

- Communication between LPHA and BEHRL
- Preparedness
- Distressed Food
- Standards for Determining Food Safety
- Distressed Drugs and Pharmaceuticals
- Potable Water under Emergency Conditions
- Wastewater Treatment Systems after Flood
- Mass Feeding Centers/Emergency Shelters
- Sanitation Guidelines for Childcare and Lodging
- Disaster Recovery

EHOG

Onsite Wastewater

- Complaints and Malfunctioning Systems
- Wastewater Treatment at DHSS Regulated Facilities
- Application Review and Permitting Process – only done by contract LPHAs, or those with ordinances
- Interpreting Site/Soil Evaluation Reports
- Variance Guidelines
- Illegal/Non-compliant Installations
- Registration/Licensing of Professionals
- Closure or Abandonment of Onsite System

EHOG

Child Care

- Only done by LPHAs with Participation Agreements with BEHRL
- Child Care Guidelines
- Urgent and Non-Urgent Special Circumstance Inspection
- Animal Interactions
- Disease Investigations
- Reimbursement

EHOG

Drinking Water

- Water Supply Types
- Domestic Water
- Regulated Facilities
  - Public Water
  - Non-Community Public Water
  - Private Water

EHOG

General Environmental Health

- Healthy Indoor Air
- Recreational Water
- Vector Control
- Animal Bites
- Mattresses or other Bedding
- Nuisance Complaints
- Lead

EHOG

The EHOG is a living document that the bureau updates every 3 years in coordination with State Investment in Local Public Health Services.

Updating the EHOG routinely ensures that the practices and procedures within the document are as effective and realistic as possible.

Most of the changes within the EHOG revolve around either clarification on interpretations of a law or regulation or actual changes in language.

LPHA - BEHRL Partnership

BEHRL is responsible for providing regulatory oversight for Environmental Health in Missouri. BEHRL does this in partnership with LPHAs. BEHRL's role is to provide guidance, training and technical direction to LPHAs.

BEHRL does this via:

- Maintaining and Updating the EHOG
- Virtual/Field Training for Environmental Staff
- Technical Bulletins/Information Releases
- Providing staff for support and assistance in the field

LPHA - BEHRL Partnership

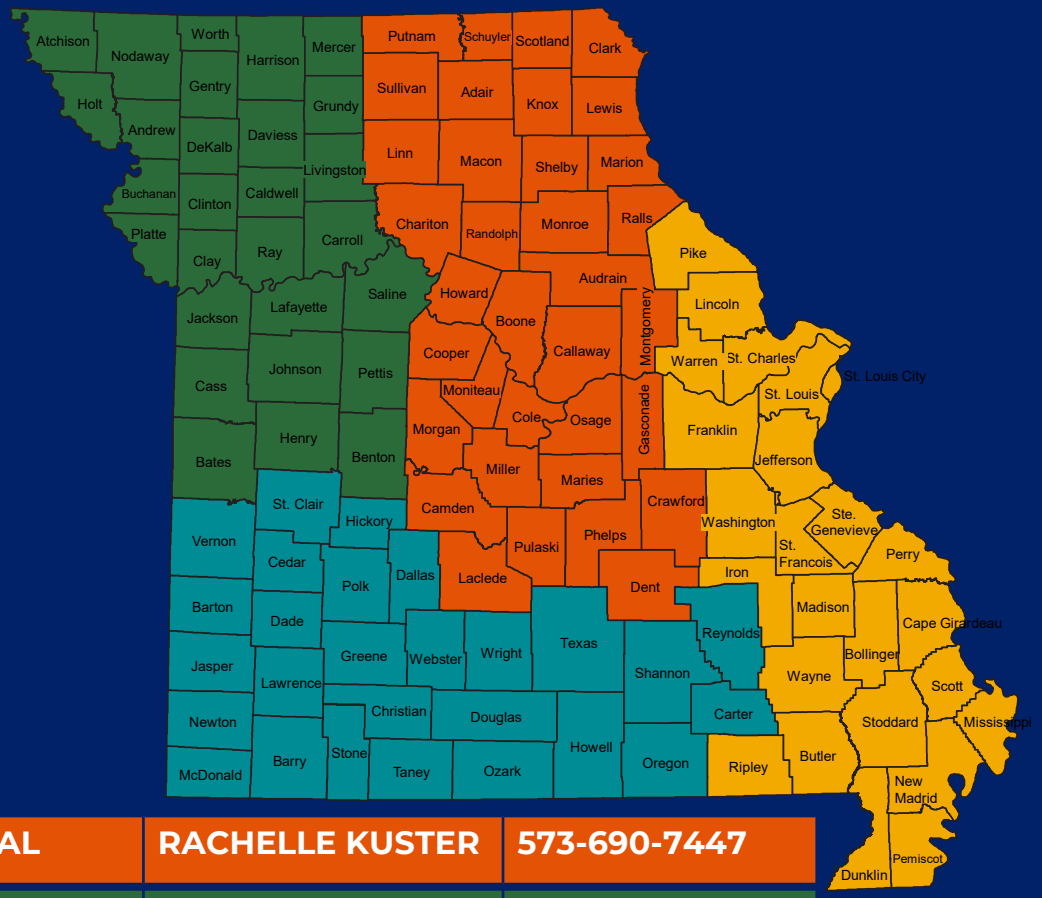
BEHRL provides multiple training methods and opportunities for the Environmental Health Specialist (EHS).

Field Training is provided to LPHAs by BEHRL Regional Specialists and District Supervisors.

New EHS take precedence, but BEHRL staff attempt to conduct field training with every LPHA on a routine basis.

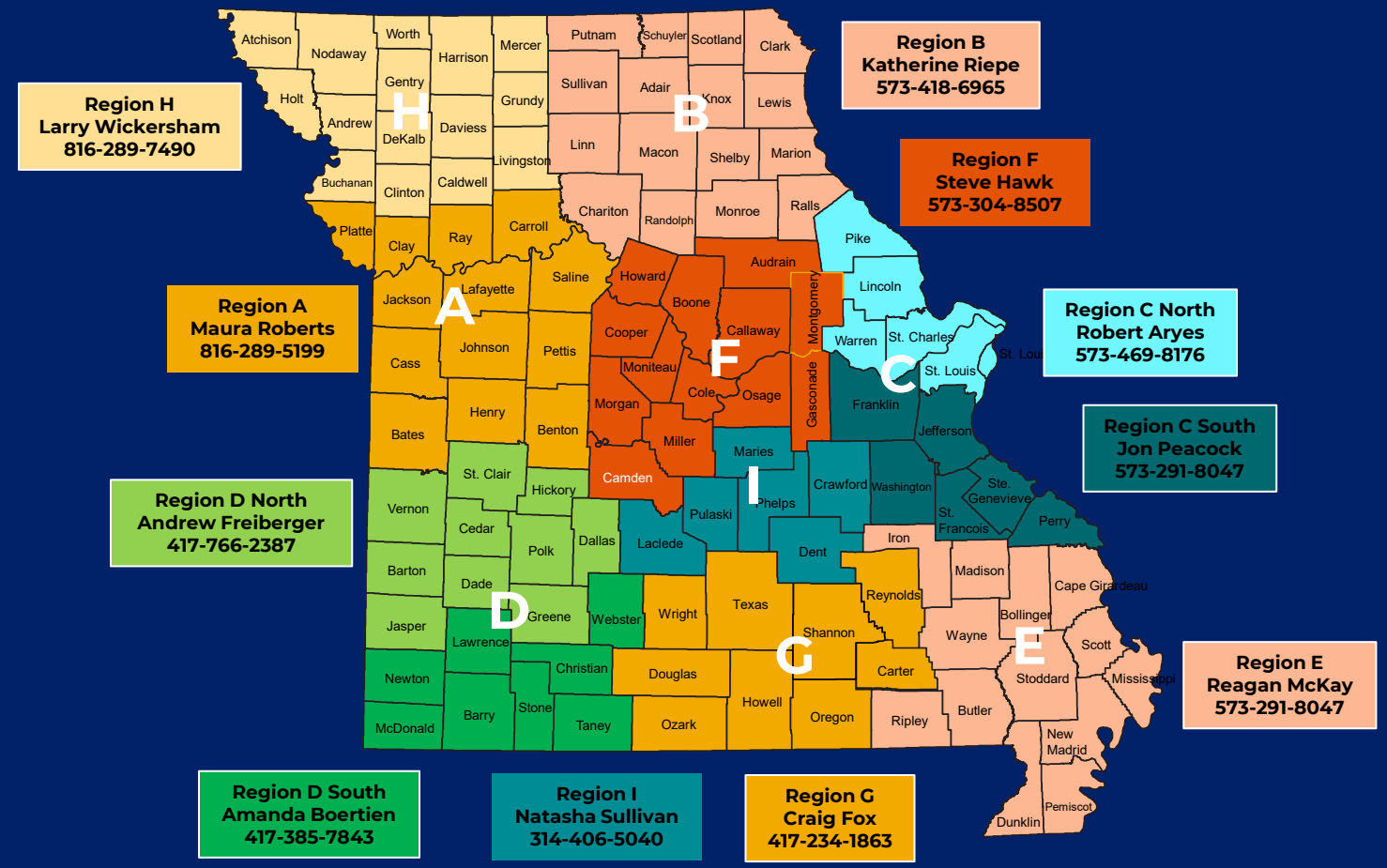
Updated 6/1/2026

DISTRICT SUPERVISOR MAP



CENTRAL	RACHELLE KUSTER	573-690-7447
NORTHWEST	LORI MOORE	816-810-9031
SOUTHWEST	EDITH TODD	417-343-9213
SOUTHEAST	BLAINE GOTTO	573-291-2839

Regional Environmental Health Specialist Contact Map for Local Public Health Agencies



LPHA - BEHRL Partnership

Virtual Training is one of most efficient means for BEHRL to provide education to LPHAs.

Currently BEHRL provides:

- Webinar Training Academy
  - A quarterly three-day training series outlining the basics of Environmental Health
- Webinar Learning Series
  - A monthly education series on EH topics
- District Virtual Office Hours
  - Monthly office hours for LPHA inspectors/administrators to discuss EH issues as a group

LPHA - BEHRL Partnership

Technical Bulletins and Information Releases are used to provide LPHAs timely communication on issues.

- Technical Bulletins are used to provide clarification on BEHRL rules, regulations, and standards and are incorporated into the EHOG during updates.

- Information Releases are used to provide LPHAs with information on EH issues that fall outside the EHOG.

LPHA - BEHRL Partnership

Under this partnership it is important for the LPHA to know what authority they enforcing environmental health regulations.

State Authority or Local Authority

RSMo 192.300 allows county commissions and county health center boards the ability to make and promulgate orders, ordinances, and rules for their jurisdictions as long as they are not in conflict with the minimum DHSS Regulations.

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QUESTIONS?

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