

Public Healthopoly Content Definitions

GO- Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH): The Kentucky Department for Public Health is responsible for implementing and managing statewide public health initiatives. Its mission is to enhance the health and safety of the population through efforts focused on prevention, health promotion, and protection (Kentucky Department for Public Health, 2025).¹¹

Urban Health Department: A local governmental agency providing public health services, including disease prevention, health education, and environmental health inspections in urban areas.

Community Chest: Represents various public health resources, grants, or assistance programs.

Rural Health Department: A local governmental agency focused on public health services for rural communities, often addressing challenges such as healthcare access and provider shortages.

Public Health Workforce Shortage: A public health workforce shortage occurs when there are not enough trained professionals to meet the health needs of a population. (Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, 2022).¹

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): A federal agency that regulates and enforces environmental policies to protect human health and the environment (Environmental Protection Agency, 2022).⁸

Emergency Preparedness: The process of planning and implementing responses to public health emergencies, including natural disasters, pandemics, and bioterrorism (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2024).¹⁷

CHANCE: Represents random public health-related events, such as policy changes, disease outbreaks, or funding opportunities.

Mitigation Plan: A strategic plan to reduce the impact of health threats, such as pandemics or natural disasters, through preparedness and intervention measures (Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2022).⁸

Medical Reserve Corp: A national network of medical and public health volunteers who assist communities in responding to emergencies (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2022).¹⁶

IN QUARANTINE –: Temporary isolation due to potential exposure to infectious diseases, but not necessarily infected. On the gameboard, the arrows indicate that a player is passing by quarantine and are unable to visit due to possible exposure to disease.

Maternal and Child Health: Public health initiatives focused on improving the health of mothers, infants, and children.

Recycling Center: A facility where waste materials are processed for reuse.

School-Based Health Program: Programs that provide healthcare services, including vaccinations, dental care, and mental health support, within schools.

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC): A federal program providing nutritional support to low-income pregnant women, new mothers, and young children (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2022).¹³

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): A federal agency responsible for ensuring the safety and efficacy of food, drugs, and medical products (Food and Drug Administration, 2022).⁹

Chronic Disease Prevention: Strategies aimed at reducing the incidence of long-term diseases such as diabetes and heart disease (Bauer et al., 2021).²

Regular Exercise at a Community Fitness Center: Promotes physical activity by providing a safe place where people can exercise and participate in wellness activities.

Healthy Eating Habits: Nutritional practices that support long-term health and disease prevention which involve consuming a variety of whole fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, low-fat or fat-free dairy, and oils. It also involves limiting intake of sodium, added sugars, and saturated fats (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2022).

FREE Public Health Resources: Government or community-provided health resources at no cost to participants.

Environmental Health Services: Programs that monitor and improve air quality, water safety, and waste disposal (Environmental Protection Agency, 2022).⁶

Restaurant Inspections: Public health inspections ensuring food safety standards are met in food establishments (Food and Drug Administration, 2022).⁸

Occupational Health & Safety: Regulations and practices that ensure workplace safety and prevent work-related injuries (Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 2022).¹²

National Institutes of Health (NIH): A federal research agency conducting medical and public health research (National Institutes of Health, 2022).¹¹

Epidemiology: The study of disease patterns, causes, and effects in populations.

Contact Tracing: A method of tracking and controlling infectious disease spread by identifying and notifying exposed individuals (Centers for Disease Control, 2024).⁵

Water Treatment Plant: A facility that purifies water to ensure safe drinking water (Environmental Protection Agency, 2022).⁷

Patient Zero: The first identified person infected in a disease outbreak.

Infectious Disease: Diseases caused by pathogens such as bacteria and viruses that can spread between people.

Chickenpox/Shingles: Viral infections caused by the varicella-zoster virus (VZV). Primary infection with VZV causes varicella (chickenpox). After the primary infection, VZV stays in the body (in the sensory nerve ganglia) as a latent infection. Reactivation of latent infection causes herpes zoster (shingles). After a person recovers from chickenpox, the virus remains inactive in the body. Shingles occurs when the virus reactivates later in life, often when the immune system is weakened (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2024).⁶

Influenza (Flu) Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2024).⁵

Centers for Disease Control (CDC): The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a national public health agency in the United States that is responsible for protecting public health and safety through disease prevention, control, and surveillance. CDC conducts research, provides health information, and develops policies to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, improve chronic disease prevention, and promote overall public health preparedness (Centers for Disease Control, 2024).³

Food Insecurity: Limited or uncertain access to nutritious food, impacting public health (U.S. Department of Agriculture, n.d.).¹⁵

Public Health Tax: A public health tax is a tax on products that are harmful to health, such as alcohol, tobacco, and sugar-sweetened beverages. The goal of these taxes is to reduce consumption of these products and improve public health (World Health Organization, 2022).¹⁸

Community Garden: Any outdoor space available in a community for growing vegetables, fruit, and/or flowers. Community members typically manage and cultivate these spaces, but organizations outside the community can also organize them (Tulane University School of Public Health, 2024).¹³

Disclaimer: The monetary values assigned to the Community Chest, Chance and Property cards in Public Healthopoly are based on the standard Monopoly game rules and are used for gameplay purposes only. These values do not reflect the actual costs, value or financial impact of public health programs, policies or crises in real-world settings. Public health investments and responses involve complex funding structures, community resources and long-term impacts that go beyond the scope of this game. This game is intended for educational and entertainment purposes to promote awareness of public health systems and their role in community well-being.

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