



PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE

FACT SHEET

A public health nuisance can be any of three things:

- Can make people sick,
- Can cause an infestation of insects or rodents, or
- Can pose a health threat or injury to others who may enter the home or building.

What is the role of public health departments?

Minnesota Statute 145A defines a “public health nuisance” as any activity or failure to act that adversely affects the public health. Minnesota Statute 145A gives the local board of health or its agent the authority to remove or decrease the threat within a certain time.

What are examples of public health nuisances?

Public health nuisances can be:

- Piles of trash or solid waste
- Human or animal feces
- Rotting food
- Rodent or insect infestation
- Lack of water or sewage disposal
- Limited or blocked pathways to windows and doors
- Number or type of animals that might be dangerous to people

It is important to acknowledge that a “messy” or “cluttered” work or living area is not always a public health nuisance.

How does a public health department find out that a nuisance exists?

Public health nuisance reports and referrals can come from anyone who suspects one exists. Reports may be made by property owners, tenants, neighbors, family, concerned citizens, EMS responders, or law enforcement.

All nuisance reports will be investigated. The type of investigation will be determined by the public health department and may include a variety of agencies, such as community social services, law enforcement, or the humane society.

How will a public health nuisance be addressed?

If declared a public health nuisance, the owner is given 10 days to remove, fix, or decrease the issue and have a re-inspection scheduled. If the owner declines to address the public health nuisance, the public health department has authority to do it on their own. The health department can make the property owner pay for the work needed to fix the nuisance.

REPORT A NUISANCE

To report a nuisance call (952) 891-7500 or email EnvironmentalHealth@co.dakota.mn.us

