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# 1 DIRECTOR'S ORDER #83A: PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION AND DISEASE 2 PREVENTION

3 **Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Director

5 **Effective Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

6 **Duration:** Until amended or rescinded

7 This Director's Order (Order) supersedes and replaces Director's Order #83: Public Health,  
8 dated October 21, 2004. Together with the accompanying Reference Manual 83A (RM-83A), it  
9 supersedes and replaces any other conflicting guidance.

10 As with the 2004 edition, Director's Order #83A sets forth National Park Service (NPS) policies  
11 and procedures to protect the health of employees, volunteers, contractors, partners, and visitors  
12 in the National Park System and facilities operated by the NPS. It supplements NPS  
13 *Management Policies* (2006), [section 8.2.5.5](#) (Public Health Program). Related policy on the  
14 benefits of System units for human health and well-being will be found in Director's Order  
15 #83B: Public Health Promotion—Healthy Parks Healthy People.

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## 22 **1. Background and Purpose**

### 23 **1.1 Background**

24 The National Park Service (NPS) has been dedicated to public health since its founding. Since  
25 1921, the NPS and the United States Public Health Service<sup>1</sup> (USPHS) have maintained a formal  
26 partnership to protect the health of employees and the visiting public in America's National Park  
27 System. This 100-year-old partnership is said to be one of the oldest agreements in the Federal  
28 Government. In 2009, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the NPS and the  
29 USPHS was elevated to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and expanded to

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<sup>1</sup> Authority for the U.S. Public Health Service is found in the 1944 Public Health Service Act, as amended ([42 USC, Chapter 6A](#)). Under the law, U.S. Public Health Service officers may (1) be deployed in response to public health emergencies, (2) be detailed to other Government departments, (3) cooperate with or assist other public authorities and scientific institutions with research and investigations related to public health, and (4) collect and analyze data.

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30 the whole of the Department of the Interior (Department). The MOA designated the NPS Office  
31 of Public Health (OPH) as the operating division to recruit, support, and manage human resource  
32 functions for USPHS Commissioned Corps Officers assigned to the Department through the  
33 delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget. No event in  
34 the history of the NPS-USPHS partnership has reinforced its value more firmly than the COVID-  
35 19 pandemic. NPS decision makers were able to immediately draw upon the technical expertise  
36 of public health professionals to inform decisions that allowed the Service to continue to carry  
37 out vital operations and services, while protecting both visitors and employees.

38 The National Park System offers unique resources—programs, facilities, and natural and cultural  
39 environments—for promoting healthy behaviors and lifestyles. The NPS advocates for equitable  
40 access to these park health resources, so all Americans may enjoy their benefits.

41 The NPS also acknowledges that climate change threatens human health. Existing threats—such  
42 as severe weather events, decreased air and water quality, wildland fires, and illnesses transmitted  
43 by food, water, and disease carriers—are likely to intensify and new threats are likely to emerge.  
44 The NPS is striving to better understand the effects of climate change and to develop proactive  
45 approaches to protect human health and park resources.

46 The NPS recognizes human, animal, and environmental health as interconnected, and that  
47 interdisciplinary efforts sustain and improve health outcomes. Therefore, the NPS has adopted  
48 the collaborative, science-based “One Health” approach to unite multiple disciplines, such as  
49 public health, wildlife health, environmental health, integrated pest management, and visitor and  
50 employee safety to develop effective guidance and achieve beneficial outcomes. One Health  
51 fosters internal and external communication and partnerships to effectively and efficiently  
52 mitigate risk, prevent illness and injury, and promote human, animal, and environmental health.

53 The NPS, concessioners, leaseholders, and other partners operate a variety of facilities and  
54 services in national parks, such as:

- 55 • drinking water supply systems
- 56 • wastewater management systems
- 57 • food establishments
- 58 • bathing beaches, swimming pools, and spas
- 59 • shower and laundry facilities
- 60 • medical clinics
- 61 • employee housing
- 62 • visitor overnight accommodations
- 63 • other visitor services (for example, guiding, outfitting, and other front and backcountry  
64 operations)

65 To ensure adherence to applicable laws and regulations, the OPH conducts public health  
66 assessments of these facilities and services to:

- 67 • identify and correct deficiencies; and
- 68 • mitigate risk for transmission of diseases that could have devastating impacts on human,  
69 animal, and environmental health.

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70 The OPH conducts these inspections on a routine basis, or in the case of employee housing and  
71 visitor accommodations, at the request of a park manager.

72 The OPH provides technical assistance and conducts training to help the NPS recognize and  
73 manage health risks. The OPH also issues health awareness information through fact sheets,  
74 internal and external public health notifications, in park and town hall meetings, and via an  
75 employee intranet site and a public website, [www.nps.gov/public\\_health/](http://www.nps.gov/public_health/).

### 76 **1.2 Purpose**

77 The purpose of this Order is to provide:

- 78 • direction to NPS and USPHS managers and employees who are responsible for protecting  
79 public health;
- 80 • guidance for NPS administration of Federal, State, Tribal, and local public health laws,  
81 regulations, and standards; and
- 82 • requirements and procedures for reporting, investigating, and responding to infectious  
83 disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies.

### 84 **2. Authority for this Director's Order**

85 Authority to issue this Order is contained in the National Park Service Organic Act and other  
86 NPS laws ([54 USC 100101](#) *et seq.*), and the delegations of authority contained in Part 245 of the  
87 Department of the Interior Manual.

88 This Order is intended only to improve the internal management of the NPS and, in and of itself,  
89 is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural,  
90 enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies,  
91 instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

### 92 **3. Policy and Objectives**

93 This Order sets forth the policy and objectives to protect the health of employees, volunteers,  
94 contractors, partners, and visitors in national parks and facilities operated by the NPS. RM-83A  
95 contains comprehensive requirements, procedures, and practices to carry out this Order.  
96 Nothing in this policy will relieve any concessioner of its responsibilities, as detailed in the  
97 concession contract.

#### 98 **3.1 One Health Program**

99 The NPS has a fundamental mandate to conserve and prevent impairment of park resources and  
100 values. The One Health approach to human, animal, and environmental health is consistent with  
101 this mandate. The NPS will develop and maintain an interdisciplinary One Health Program to  
102 provide the guidance, tools, and training necessary to protect the health of humans, animals, and  
103 the environment, and to address the public health threats from climate change. The program will  
104 be co-managed by the Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection, and the Associate  
105 Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science.

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106 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide detailed information about the  
107 One Health approach online at [www.cdc.gov/onehealth/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/index.html).

### 108 **3.2 Science-Based Approach**

109 The NPS will use a science-based approach to protect public health. NPS guidance on public  
110 health topics will be based on public health regulatory requirements. In the absence of  
111 regulatory authority, the NPS will use the preponderance of public health scientific evidence and  
112 the recommendations of credible public health authorities to develop NPS-specific guidance.  
113 NPS staff will conduct scientific and scholarly public health research activities following the  
114 guidance in [Director's Order #79: Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities](#) and [Director's](#)  
115 [Order #11B: Ensuring Quality of Information Dissemination by the National Park Service](#).

### 116 **3.3 Collaboration**

117 The NPS's responsibilities for public health protection and disease prevention, detection, and  
118 response require collaboration and coordination between NPS programs and disciplines, as well  
119 as building partnerships with internal and external entities to advance mutual goals. The One  
120 Health approach compels the NPS to work in an interdisciplinary manner, drawing on expertise  
121 from the medical, veterinary, and environmental fields—in particular the OPH and the Natural  
122 Resource Stewardship and Science directorate's Wildlife Health Branch, Integrated Pest  
123 Management program, and Wildlife Conservation Branch. A coordinated, collaborative  
124 approach will consider the potential impacts of any public health activities (individual or  
125 cumulative) on park resources and values the NPS is mandated to protect, such as endangered  
126 species or species of concern. (See *Management Policies*, sections [1.4.7](#), [4.4.2](#), [4.4.4.2](#), and [4.4.5](#))

127 The OPH will work closely with the Office of Risk Management to plan and conduct a  
128 coordinated and coherent response to public health issues that could affect all people working in  
129 or visiting parks. The OPH will also recognize and leverage expertise in the broader public  
130 health community, and will seek opportunities to collaborate with local and State health  
131 departments, the CDC, and the academic community.

### 132 **3.4 Health Protection and Disease Prevention Policies and Procedures**

#### 133 **3.4.1 Drinking Water Supply Systems**

134 The NPS will design, construct, operate, and maintain drinking water systems with the objective  
135 of providing safe drinking water. Water systems and their operators must comply with all  
136 applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local drinking water laws, regulations, and standards,  
137 including the Safe Drinking Water Act and Primacy Agency requirements. The Primacy Agency  
138 is the agency designated by Federal law as having oversight responsibility.

139 The Primacy Agency will review and approve any new or modified water systems, and an OPH  
140 official will review and make recommendations on any new or modified water system. While  
141 the Safe Drinking Water Act does not govern non-public or private water systems that serve NPS  
142 facilities, these water systems will nonetheless be maintained like public water systems  
143 following the guidance in RM-83A. (See *Management Policies*, [section 9.1.5.1](#))

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### 144 **3.4.2 Wastewater Treatment Systems**

145 The NPS will design, construct, and operate wastewater treatment and disposal systems to  
146 prevent contamination of the environment. Wastewater systems must comply with all applicable  
147 Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and standards, including the Clean Water Act, the  
148 Safe Water Drinking Act, and Primacy Agency requirements. The NPS is also required to  
149 follow Federal, State, Tribal, or local regulations for the underground wastewater treatment  
150 disposal systems known as Underground Injection Control (UIC) wells. UIC wells are grouped  
151 in six classes (I-VI), based on their use. The NPS will close UIC wells banned by Federal or  
152 State regulations.

153 The Primacy Agency will review and approve any new or modified wastewater systems, and an  
154 OPH official will review and make recommendations on any new or modified wastewater  
155 systems. Unregulated wastewater systems that serve NPS facilities must be maintained like  
156 regulated systems and follow best management practices. The NPS Environmental Compliance  
157 and Cleanup Division will incorporate audit criteria for assessing wastewater treatment  
158 operations against permit requirements in the NPS Environmental Audit Program. (See  
159 *Management Policies*, [section 9.1.5.2](#))

### 160 **3.4.3 Food Safety and Sanitation**

161 To reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses in food service operations, the NPS has adopted the  
162 U.S. Food and Drug Administration Food Code as the minimum operational and performance  
163 evaluation standard. This policy applies to all food service operations, events, or activities where  
164 food is stored, prepared, or served to the public, regardless of whether a fee is charged, including:

- 165 • concessioner-operated food establishments;
- 166 • food service operations conducted under commercial use authorizations, special park use  
167 permits, and leases;
- 168 • emergency incidents; and
- 169 • backcountry and wilderness operations.

170 The NPS will encourage its food service partners to follow a One Health approach in food  
171 service operations to (1) improve food safety and reduce the risk of food-borne illnesses, (2)  
172 provide healthy and sustainable food options, and (3) help reduce climate change impacts  
173 associated with food production.

174 The OPH Director or designee will review and approve all new food service operations or  
175 modifications to existing operations. Nothing in this policy will relieve any concessioner of its  
176 responsibilities as detailed in the concession contract. (See *Management Policies*, sections  
177 [8.6.2.4](#), [10.2.4.3](#), and [10.2.4.12](#))

### 178 **3.4.4 Recreational Waters**

179 The NPS will operate, maintain, and monitor recreational water sites (swimming pools, spas, hot  
180 tubs, and designated bathing beaches) to reduce the risk of water-related diseases and injuries.  
181 Identified deficiencies must be promptly corrected.

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### 182 **3.4.4.1 Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs, and Spas**

183 NPS and concessioner-managed swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs will be constructed,  
184 operated, maintained, and monitored following applicable Federal, State, and local laws,  
185 regulations, and standards.

186 The design and construction of swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs will comply with the:

- 187 • International Code Council (ICC) International Swimming Pool and Spa Code; and
- 188 • Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

189 In the absence of State or local laws, regulations, and standards for swimming facility operations,  
190 the NPS and concessioners will follow guidance in the CDC’s [Model Aquatic Health Code](#) and  
191 in RM-83A.

192 This section does not supercede or otherwise cancel exceptions for historic resources as provided  
193 in the Secretary’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, or code-exception principles  
194 and procedures where the relevant pools, spas, or tubs are associated with a historic resource.

### 195 **3.4.4.2 Bathing Beaches**

196 Designated bathing beaches may be located at lakes, rivers, oceans, hot springs, and other water  
197 bodies. The NPS will operate, maintain, and monitor these sites per:

- 198 • State and/or local laws, regulations, and standards;
- 199 • the [Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000](#); and
- 200 • Primacy Agency requirements.

201 In the absence of applicable State or local laws, regulations, and standards, the NPS will follow  
202 guidance in RM-83A. (See *Management Policies*, [section 8.2.2](#))

### 203 **3.4.5 Contaminated Site Operations**

204 The NPS will design, engineer, and manage contaminated site cleanup operations in a manner  
205 that minimizes health and safety risks to NPS employees and the public. Contaminated site  
206 cleanup operations must comply with all applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws and  
207 regulations. The NPS Environmental Compliance and Cleanup Division will coordinate with  
208 OPH on public health-facing issues.

### 209 **3.4.6 Backcountry and Wilderness Operations<sup>2</sup>**

210 NPS backcountry and wilderness operations, including sanitary facilities, will be maintained at  
211 the minimum level necessary to meet a park’s backcountry and wilderness management  
212 objectives and to provide for the health and safety of park visitors. Park managers should follow  
213 applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures for potable water, human waste disposal,  
214 food and garbage storage, and food service to reduce the risk of waterborne, foodborne, and  
215 vector-borne diseases in backcountry and wilderness areas. Proposed actions that may involve

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<sup>2</sup> The NPS uses the term “backcountry” to refer to primitive, undeveloped portions of parks. Backcountry is not the same as wilderness. For NPS policies and purposes, “wilderness” includes the categories of eligible, proposed, recommended, and designated wilderness. Potential wilderness may be a subset of any of these categories. Because of conditions and constraints imposed by the Wilderness Act and NPS *Management Policies*, administrative practices required for management of wilderness areas in parks differ from those for backcountry areas.

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216 the placement of a structure or installation (such as a toilet or water facility) in wilderness will be  
217 subject to a minimum requirements analysis. Further guidance on backcountry and wilderness  
218 operations can be found in RM-83A and Director’s Order #41: Wilderness Stewardship. (See  
219 also *Management Policies*, section [8.2.2.4](#))

### 220 **3.4.7 Disease Detection and Response**

221 NPS managers must promptly report all suspected or confirmed cases of infectious diseases and  
222 illnesses of public health concern to their regional public health officer or to the OPH  
223 Epidemiology Branch. Many infectious diseases affect both humans and wildlife, and some  
224 diseases are transmitted from wildlife to people (these are called zoonotic diseases). Illnesses of  
225 concern include:

- 226 • incidents where three or more visitors, employees, or volunteers have similar symptoms  
227 or illnesses;
- 228 • single reports of rare or reportable diseases;
- 229 • incidents that result in death, cause serious injury or illness, and/or lead to overnight  
230 hospitalization;
- 231 • wildlife encounters of concern, such as bites, scratches, or attacks;
- 232 • wildlife deaths that do not fit known patterns; and
- 233 • other known illnesses of public health concern.

234 Prompt reporting of infectious disease cases and illnesses of public health concern is critical for  
235 limiting disease transmission and protecting the health of NPS employees, concessioners,  
236 partners, and visitors.

237 NPS staff who respond to a disease outbreak typically investigate these incidents in partnership  
238 with State, Tribal, and local health departments and/or the CDC. For significant disease  
239 transmission events, the NPS may activate an interdisciplinary “Disease Prevention and  
240 Response Team” that brings together expertise from multiple disciplines, including medical,  
241 veterinary, and environmental. Park staff may be asked to assist with specific aspects of an  
242 investigation (for example, implementation of control measures), take part in meetings with  
243 health partners, and develop or review communications materials.

244 The NPS will follow the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act and guidance from the  
245 Wildlife Health Branch when it is necessary to handle, anesthetize, or euthanize a vertebrate  
246 animal species for public health or diagnostic reasons (see [Director’s Order #77-4: Use of  
247 Pharmaceuticals for Wildlife](#)).

### 248 **3.4.8 Public Health Support for All Hazard Incidents and Special Events**

249 The Department or senior NPS, regional, or park managers may request the support of USPHS  
250 Commissioned Corps officers for the response to all hazard incidents (natural or human-caused  
251 emergencies) and special events. Officers will be activated via the Incident Command System  
252 and may serve on incident management teams in any role necessary to achieve incident or event  
253 public health objectives. RM-83A describes emergency response procedures for public health;  
254 [guidance on the Incident Command System is found in Director’s Order #55: Incident  
255 Management Program](#) and [Reference Manual 55](#).

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### 256 **3.4.9 Education and Communication**

257 Education and communication are essential components of NPS public health and disease  
258 prevention efforts. The OPH will develop and present up-to-date, scientifically accurate  
259 information using internal and external communication tools and media, learning and  
260 development opportunities, and education programs. Education and communication options  
261 include webinars, in-person training sessions, fact sheets, technical documents, reports, posters,  
262 trail signs, NPS.gov, and InsideNPS or other internal communication forums.

### 263 **3.4.10 Public Contact with Animals**

264 **Contact with Free-Ranging Wildlife:** Contact with free-ranging wildlife (for example, direct  
265 contact from a bite or scratch, from feeding wildlife, or wildlife in human-occupied buildings)  
266 carries significant potential public health risks for people. When appropriate, such contacts  
267 should be reported to the OPH and other entities following the procedures in RM-83A.

268 **Sanctioned Public Contact with Animals:** “Sanctioned public contact with animals” refers to  
269 authorized activities or operations where employees or the public come in contact with animals  
270 owned by the NPS, concessions, commercial use authorization holders, or partners. Examples  
271 include farm animals in cultural or educational exhibits, working animals, and livestock. To  
272 reduce the risks of disease transmission between animals and people, park managers should follow  
273 the best management practices identified in RM-83A for sanctioned public contact with animals.

## 274 **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

### 275 **4.1 Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection (VRP)**

276 The Associate Director, VRP is responsible for the administration of the NPS public health  
277 protection and prevention program and will:

- 278 • issue, review, and revise as appropriate, RM-83A, with detailed guidance, general  
279 information, recommendations, procedures, and examples for developing comprehensive  
280 plans, strategic plans, and implementation plans to effectively manage the public health  
281 protection and prevention program;
- 282 • ensure the OPH has the necessary resources (personnel, funding, supplies, and equipment)  
283 to implement the policies, procedures, and standards in this Order and RM-83A;
- 284 • authorize periodic OPH evaluations of the regional public health programs;
- 285 • together with the Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, manage  
286 and maintain the NPS One Health Program;
- 287 • coordinate and cooperate with the other associate and assistant directors to advance  
288 Service-wide public health policies, goals, and objectives;
- 289 • ensure VRP programs, including Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, and  
290 the Office of Risk Management, coordinate on the management of and response to disease  
291 prevention efforts and work to integrate public health-related responsibilities in relevant  
292 Level 2 (Director’s Orders) and Level 3 (reference manuals) policies and procedures; and
- 293 • ensure NPS support to implement the MOA between the Department and the Department  
294 of Health and Human Services.

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### 295 **4.2 Director, Office of Public Health (OPH)**

296 The OPH Director, as the NPS's senior public health official, will:

- 297 • oversee programmatic activities and policy development to ensure they support the
- 298 protection of public health;
- 299 • strategically allocate resources (personnel, funding, supplies, and equipment) to
- 300 effectively and efficiently carry out program responsibilities under this Order;
- 301 • serve, as delegated by the NPS Director or Associate Director, VRP, on workgroups or
- 302 committees to support USPHS Commissioned Corps officers assigned to the Department;
- 303 • represent the Department or the NPS on boards, councils, committees, and workgroups to
- 304 support national public health priorities;
- 305 • lead and coordinate public health response and preparedness activities, including
- 306 deployment of USPHS officers to respond to illnesses of public health concern cases and
- 307 public health sanitation emergencies (for example, wastewater spills, drinking water
- 308 contamination, and food- or water-borne disease outbreaks); and
- 309 • provide advice and guidance on public health issues to the NPS Director; regional,
- 310 associate, and assistant directors; and superintendents.

### 311 **4.3 United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officers**

312 USPHS Commissioned Corps officers are highly trained public health professionals, with expertise  
313 in industrial hygiene, environmental health, engineering, science, epidemiology, veterinary  
314 science, nursing, medical care, and injury prevention. Officers assigned to the NPS will:

- 315 • provide technical assistance and leadership in the design, management, operation, and
- 316 evaluation of public health systems, services (see also *Management Policies*, [section](#)
- 317 [8.2.5.5](#));
- 318 • collect and analyze data to address public health issues and mitigate or eliminate
- 319 associated hazards in accordance with public health and privacy laws; and
- 320 • maintain minimum readiness status for potential deployment,<sup>3</sup> as approved by their
- 321 supervisor and the OPH Director.

### 322 **4.4 OPH Field Services Branch, Park, and Regional Public Health Officers**

323 Field Services Branch, park, and regional public health officers conduct on-site evaluations and  
324 inspections of park facilities and serve as the first point of contact on infectious disease issues.

325 They will:

- 326 • establish the frequency of and conduct public health assessments based on funding, laws,
- 327 risk, and public health needs of parks;
- 328 • assist NPS managers and staff in interpreting and applying public health policy-related
- 329 guidance;
- 330 • monitor park and regional program compliance with public health policy through
- 331 inspections;
- 332 • assist with enforcement of public health regulations and requirements and provide
- 333 direction when no regulatory standards exist;

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<sup>3</sup> [Commissioned Corps Directive 121.02](#), "Deployment and Readiness," authorizes deployment of Commissioned Corps officers in response to urgent or emergency public health care needs.

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- 334 • provide technical assistance to NPS employees to help prevent, detect, and respond to  
335 disease transmission;
- 336 • advise park managers on public health risks that warrant closure of NPS property or  
337 facilities under [36 CFR 1.5](#) or [CFR 13.50](#) to protect public health; and
- 338 • coordinate with the OPH Epidemiology Branch and the NPS One Health Program on  
339 disease-related issues.

### 340 **4.5 OPH Epidemiology Branch**

341 The Epidemiology Branch leads efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to disease transmission  
342 events in national parks, offices, and regions. The Branch's public health officers and  
343 epidemiologists will apply the One Health approach and will:

- 344 • develop and maintain human disease surveillance systems for rapid detection and  
345 response to potential or actual outbreaks;
- 346 • collect and analyze data about public health issues to reduce or eliminate associated  
347 hazards, following public health and privacy laws;
- 348 • gather information, investigate disease cases, and follow up on suspected or confirmed  
349 cases in coordination with State and local health authorities to prevent additional disease  
350 transmission in national park units;
- 351 • collaborate with internal (NPS and Department) and external partners, including State,  
352 Tribal, and local health departments, the CDC, and academic institutions, to achieve  
353 effective disease prevention and protection outcomes;
- 354 • develop standard operating procedures and guidance for NPS public health activities; and
- 355 • issue timely, accurate, science-based information using a variety of communication  
356 methods, including public health alerts, briefings, notifications, newsletters, town halls,  
357 and digital media tools (such as NPS.gov, InsideNPS, social media, and webinars).

### 358 **4.6 Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science (NRSS)**

359 The Associate Director, NRSS, will:

- 360 • together with the Associate Director, VRP, manage and maintain the NPS One Health  
361 Program;
- 362 • support application of the One Health approach to disease management and control,  
363 resource protection, and sustainable park uses;
- 364 • promote coordination and consultation between NRSS branches and the OPH to increase  
365 understanding of risks posed by and to natural components of ecosystems, such as  
366 wildlife, waters, geologic features, air quality, and the associated processes, consistent  
367 with *Management Policies*, [section 1.4.7](#); and
- 368 • ensure NRSS branches and programs coordinate, as appropriate, on the management of  
369 and response to disease prevention efforts and work to integrate public health-related  
370 responsibilities in relevant Level 2 (Director's Orders) and Level 3 (reference manuals)  
371 policies and procedures.

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### 372 **4.7 Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities and Lands (PPFL)**

373 The Associate Director, PPFL, will:

- 374 • ensure NPS employees follow applicable public health laws, regulations, and standards
- 375 (Federal, State, Tribal, and local), NPS policies, and best practices for the design,
- 376 construction, maintenance, and operation of park facilities; and
- 377 • work with the Associate Director, VRP, to identify mutually beneficial opportunities to
- 378 share data collection, analysis, and reporting systems to improve cost-effective facility
- 379 assessments and maintenance.

### 380 **4.8 Associate Director, Business Services**

381 The Associate Director, Business Services, will ensure:

- 382 • contracts and leases include requirements for concessioners, leaseholders, and other
- 383 partners to adhere to public health regulatory requirements as applicable and appropriate;
- 384 • Business Services program staff collaborate, as needed, with the OPH to make sure food
- 385 services, lodging services, and other commercial visitor services meet applicable public
- 386 health standards;
- 387 • concessioners, other contractors, leaseholders, and commercial use authorization (CUA)
- 388 holders meet public health requirements following the terms of their contracts, leases, or
- 389 CUAs; and
- 390 • concessioners and leaseholders, through the terms of their contracts and leases, cooperate
- 391 with public health disease investigators.

### 392 **4.9 Associate Director, Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers (IEV)**

393 The Associate Director, IEV, will:

- 394 • identify opportunities to inform and educate visitors about disease prevention and mitigation;
- 395 • use a variety of personal and nonpersonal services to communicate critical public health
- 396 messages; and
- 397 • rely on the OPH as the primary source for public health information.

### 398 **4.10 Assistant Director, Office of Communications**

399 The Assistant Director, Office of Communications, will:

- 400 • communicate critical and timely public health information to NPS employees, volunteers,
- 401 contractors, partners, and visitors; and
- 402 • rely on the OPH as the primary source for public health information.

### 403 **4.11 Regional Directors**

404 Regional directors will ensure:

- 405 • this Order, associated reference manuals, and applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local
- 406 laws, regulations, and standards are implemented and enforced;
- 407 • personnel, funding, supplies, and equipment are available to protect the health of NPS
- 408 employees, volunteers, contractors, partners, and visitors; and
- 409 • park superintendents understand and properly carry out the policies and procedures in this
- 410 Order and related guidance documents.

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### 411 **4.12 Park, Program, and Center Managers (Superintendents and Center, Unit, and** 412 **Office Managers)**

413 Park, program, and center managers will:

- 414 • implement and enforce the requirements of this Order;
- 415 • provide necessary and reasonable guidance, with OPH assistance as needed, to protect the
- 416 health of employees, volunteers, contractors, partners, and visitors;
- 417 • ensure all employees are oriented to the public health policies, guidance documents, and
- 418 regulatory standards needed for their job duties;
- 419 • ensure park facilities are properly designed, operated, maintained, monitored, and
- 420 deficiencies are promptly corrected;
- 421 • ensure all public food service operations adhere to applicable sanitation and food safety
- 422 standards to minimize the risk of foodborne illness;
- 423 • provide park or regional office public health officers with support necessary to conduct
- 424 public health assessments, including staff assistance, office space, supplies, equipment,
- 425 and transportation;
- 426 • correct deficiencies and mitigate risks identified by public health officers during periodic
- 427 assessments; and
- 428 • close NPS facilities and property per 36 CFR 1.5 or 13.50 (Closures and public use
- 429 limits), as necessary, to prevent the spread of disease.

### 430 **5. Related Sources of Guidance**

431 Other sources of guidance applicable to public health protection are:

- 432 • [Director's Order #9: Law Enforcement Program](#) and [Reference Manual 9](#)
- 433 • [Director's Order #11B: Ensuring Quality of Information Disseminated by the National](#)
- 434 [Park Service](#)
- 435 • [Director's Order #41: Wilderness Stewardship](#) and [Reference Manual 41: Wilderness](#)
- 436 [Stewardship](#)
- 437 • Director's Order #48A: Concessions Management
- 438 • [Director's Order #50B: Occupational Safety and Health Program](#) and [Reference Manual](#)
- 439 [50B](#)
- 440 • [Director's Order #50C: Public Risk Management Program](#) and [Reference Manual 50C](#)
- 441 • [Director's Order #51: Emergency Medical Services](#) and [Reference Manual 51](#)
- 442 • [Director's Order #53: Special Park Uses and Reference Manual 53](#)
- 443 • [Director's Order #55: Incident Management Program](#) and [Reference Manual 55](#)
- 444 • [Director's Order #77-4: Use of Pharmaceuticals for Wildlife](#)
- 445 • Director's Order #77-7: Integrated Pest Management
- 446 • [Director's Order #79: Scientific Integrity](#)
- 447 • Director's Order #83B: Public Health Promotion—Healthy Parks Healthy People
- 448 • Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Department
- 449 of Health and Human Services: Office of Policy, Management and Budget 0006265

450 -----End of Director's Order-----