

# Policy Title: Public Health Safeguards and Constitutional Rights Protection Policy

Policy Number: PHR-2025-01

Effective Date: [Insert Date]

Policy Category: Public Health / Human Rights

Applies To: All Cochise County Departments, Public Health Officials, Emergency Management Authorities, and external agencies engaging with County residents under the authority of Cochise County.

## 1.0 Purpose

To provide a framework for balancing public health responses with the preservation of individual freedoms, informed consent, and ethical medical standards.

## 2.0 Policy Statement

Cochise County recognizes the importance of effective public health measures to safeguard community well-being. In addition, the county affirms that such measures must not infringe upon:

- Individual bodily autonomy,
- Religious beliefs and practices,
- The right to informed consent,
- Constitutional protections including due process, privacy, and freedom of conscience.

## 3.0 Prohibited Practices

Unless explicitly authorized by lawful court order or legislative act, the County shall not:

- Mandate medical treatments (e.g., vaccines, injections, testing) without the individual's voluntary and informed consent.
- Enforce medical procedures that contravene an individual's sincerely held religious beliefs.

- Participate in or endorse any programs involving experimental medical procedures or products on County residents without:
  - Full disclosure of risk,
  - A clearly defined opt-out process, and
  - Institutional Review Board (IRB) oversight when applicable.
- Use coercion, incentives, or penalties to enforce compliance with medical mandates, including but not limited to, access to employment, services, education, or public spaces.

## 4.0 Policy Implementation Guidelines

### A. Review of Health Programs

- The County Health Director must certify that any proposed public health intervention complies with this policy and includes:
  - Compliance with FDA, CDC, regulations and legal standards for informed consent.
- Policies will be reviewed regularly to reflect updated science, legal standards, and community needs.

### B. Transparency and Communication

- All public health campaigns shall:
  - Be communicated in plain language, free of unnecessary jargon.
  - Share critical information as early as possible while maintaining accuracy.
  - Ensure consistency of messages across platforms.
  - Be reviewed for constitutional and legal compliance before implementation.

### C. Oversight and Enforcement

- The Board of Health shall review any public or internal reports of a failure to comply with this policy.
- Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action administered in accordance with the Cochise County personnel policies and applicable employment laws.

## 5.0 Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed every two years or as necessary in response to changes in public health law or constitutional interpretation.