

Sanitary Code Summary



INTRODUCTION

St. Lawrence County is unique in New York State being a partial-service county with a Sanitarian position. This code was developed to help guide the work of the Sanitarian, as distinct from other regulatory entities such as the New York State Department of Health District Environmental Office, which oversees traditional Environmental Health services in the county such as restaurant inspections and public water supplies.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health oversees the services of the department including the work of the Sanitarian and is the entity with the authority to enforce the code as needed.

Permits and Licenses

The code enables the Public Health Department to require permits and licenses as needed for specific activities, should concerning activities arise that require monitoring and are not otherwise regulated by another authority. As of January 2026, no permits or licenses are issued by the county public health department.

General Sanitation

Offensive materials such as garbage and refuse must be maintained in such a manner as to not pose a nuisance detrimental to the health of the public. It also specifies that the department may address private water supplies that are not of a safe, sanitary quality.

Nuisances

The Department shall investigate complaints concerning nuisances, defined as causes of danger or injury to life and health, and direct abatement or suppression as necessary.

Dwellings

Buildings occupied as homes are to be maintained in a safe and sanitary manner, with jurisdictional deference to municipal code enforcement officials.

Sewage Treatment Systems

Property owners are to maintain sewage systems such that they operate safely and do not create a nuisance, with jurisdictional deference to municipal code enforcement officials and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The public health department is able to conduct dye tests to assess seepage.

Communicable Disease

Confirmed and suspected cases of diseases that can be spread from human to human or from a vector to a human are to be reported to the public health department for investigation and follow up.