

## About CEHA

Most CEHA members are Registered Sanitarians working at local health departments throughout Connecticut.

Since its founding in 1954, the Association has grown to more than 300 members and continues to improve the educational and professional qualifications of persons working in Public Health. The association's aims and objectives include:

- Encouraging and actively promoting the personal and educational development of the membership through the pursuit of higher education, by special training courses, educational conferences or by other means,
- Maintaining at a high level, the qualifications necessary for Sanitarian registration in Connecticut and promoting the advancement of all professionals in the field of environmental health
- Facilitating standardization of methods in general environmental health practices,
- Striving for increased recognition of Environmental Health as a profession rendering services vital to the health and well-being of the public,
- Development and support of environmental health legislation certification

***"...to advance the environmental health and protection professional for the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all."***

National Environmental Health Association

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### *On the Importance of Environmental Health...*

*Since the turn of the century [1900], the life expectancy of US citizens has increased from 45 to 75 years-a 30 year increase. Twenty-five of these 30 years of increased life are attributed to public health initiatives that improved the environment in which we live.*

US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Office of Disease Control and Prevention, For a Healthy Nation: Returns on Investment in Public Health, 1994, p. 3.

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## CEHA

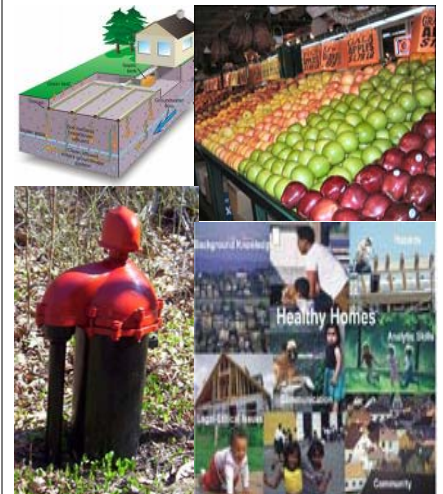
**Connecticut Environmental Health Association**

[www.cteha.org](http://www.cteha.org)



**Connecticut  
Environmental  
Health Association**

## Becoming a Registered Sanitarian in Connecticut



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## Becoming a Registered Sanitarian

### What does a Sanitarian do?

The primary function of a Sanitarian consists of educating people about the Public Health Code and enforcing it. The job is varied and rewarding. You might be inspecting restaurants one day and be doing soil testing for a new septic system the next. Another day might bring you to a bathing area to collect water samples. Your next task might be to approve the location for a new water well. You might be called upon to do housing inspections and evaluate lead risk or investigate a food-borne disease outbreak. In general, your duties will be a mix of field-based and office-based activities. Sanitarians provide an important service by ensuring a healthy environment for the citizens of Connecticut. In larger departments, you might specialize in one or more specific areas. In the smaller or more rural departments, your job would more likely to include all of the above tasks.



**The job of a Sanitarian is varied and interesting, consisting of both office and field work**

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Test pits being dug for soil evaluation.

### How have CEHA members become Registered Sanitarians and how do I enter the field?

Many of our members have very diverse backgrounds and entered the field indirectly. A more direct path to enter the field is to get a degree in Public Health and also enroll in the Environmental Health Training Program as noted below. Public Health degrees are offered by Southern Connecticut State University, the University of Connecticut and Yale University in this state.

To provide the best opportunities for advancement, a Masters in Public Health is recommended. The Masters in Public Health is referenced in Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-200 and 19-244 in regards to credentialing of Directors of Health.

### The Environmental Health Training Program at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU):

It is recommended that you consider signing up for the environmental health training program at SCSU. The course will provide you with an important overview of environmental health topics that you may encounter as a Sanitarian. It is typically offered a a full-day course on Wednesdays from early January to late April. It can also serve as a review to take the Registered Sanitarian Examination.

The course is co-sponsored by the CT Department of Public Health. The course is endorsed by the following organizations:

- CT Environmental Health Association
- CT Association of Directors of Health
- CT Public Health Association

More information on this program is available at the following link:

[http://www.southernct.edu/public\\_health/environmentalhealthtrainingprogram/](http://www.southernct.edu/public_health/environmentalhealthtrainingprogram/)

### Taking the Registered Sanitarian Examination

The most updated information on taking the Registered Sanitarian Exam is available on the CT Department of Public Health website at the following link: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/>

Licensing requirements include the following:

- Holding a four-year degree from an accredited college
- Two years of full-time experience, or the equivalent, in the field of environmental health
- Successful completion of either the National Environmental Health Association Exam (NEHA) or the Professional Examination Service (PES) Exam.

Taking the NEHA Exam is recommended as it offers more portability to move throughout the country.

### Important Credentials for Registered Sanitarians

It is recommended that Registered Sanitarians also get the following additional credentials:

- Certified Food Inspector
- Phase I and II Certification for Subsurface Sewage Disposal (Soil class is also important)
- Lead Inspector Certification

Most of the classes to obtain the certifications above are coordinated by the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) at no charge to participants. Some classes are also part of the SCSU Environmental Health Training Program. The contact information for the programs at DPH are available at the following link:

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/>



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