

Frequently Asked Questions about the Ohio Department of Health's Environmental Health Data System Integration (EH DSI)

1. What is the EH DSI?

The EH DSI is a statewide integrated environmental health (EH) solution (i.e., computer application). The EH DSI is a contractor-hosted, commercial off-the-shelf, centralized web-based data system with some modifications. The system will monitor and route customer records, and enable communication between all regulatory bodies and their customers via standardized data sets and functionality. In 2013, it included four EH program modules: Public Swimming Pools, Agricultural Labor Camps, Campgrounds, and Food Safety. Other EH program modules (e.g., Private Water, Sewage, Body Art, Rabies, Resident Camps and Schools) will be implemented in 2015.

2. Who could access and use the EH DSI?

Regulatory program users (i.e., internal users) may access the EH DSI to issue licenses, certifications and permits, to collect and process inspections, and various other features such as creating reports. Environmental health customers (i.e., external users) may access the EH DSI to apply, amend and renew their licenses, certifications, and permits, including making electronic payments for fees due. The general public will be able to access certain environmental health data such as inspection results of the regulated community.

3. What is the cost for user licenses for Ohio and local health district regulators?

At this point in time the software licenses are being provided to local health districts through the contractual agreement between ODH and the vendor (i.e., HealthSpace). Costs associated with purchase of hardware and/or data important will be costs borne by the local health districts

4. When will the EH DSI be completed?

The target date for completion of Phase II programs is June 2015.

5. Will the software be PC or Mac-compatible? Answers below provided from contracted vendor?

The HealthSpace EI software is built to run with the IBM Notes Client. There are current versions of the IBM Notes client for both PCs and Mac operating systems. HealthSpace certifies the application for the PC version of the IBM Notes Client. While IBM Notes runs on a Mac, HealthSpace has not tested the EI software using Mac. There are a few features and capabilities that we know are only available under Windows and we have not made the code intelligent to not include those features when running on a Mac. For this reason HealthSpace does not advertise it running on Mac under the Mac OS X operating system. HealthSpace EI software will run without issues on Windows emulators running in Mac OS X, such as VM Fusion or Parallels.

6. Will the EH DSI application be able to accommodate iPads out in the field for inspections?

The HealthSpace EI software is built to run with the IBM Notes Client. There is no Notes Client for the iPad's iOS operating system. Therefore the application will not run natively under iOS. There are iOS apps which support connection to remote computers (while connected to the internet) which can be used to access an IBM Notes Client application. These tools are adequate for browsing the data in a Notes application but HealthSpace has found them limited in use when data capture for an EH DSI application is involved.