

The Regional Public Health Authority of Moravian-Silesian Region based in Ostrava (RPHA) is a body of public health and is directly subordinate to the Ministry of Health.

The main tasks include assessment and management of health risks in terms of prevention of negative influence of population health status and participation in monitoring of the relationship between the environment and living and working conditions. Another area is the cooperation with the administrative authorities and local authorities on the development of health policy and participation on the tasks of the integrated rescue system. RPHA is also a training centre for the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ostrava; organizes conferences and workshops; publishes results in professional journals, provides information for public, publishes yearbooks and newsletters and is a member of the Crisis Staff and regional commissions.

RPHA executes national health surveillance, which is focused on the following areas:

- ▶ Observing of an anti-epidemical regime, prevention of the origin and the spread of nosocomial infections in health care and social care facilities
- ▶ standards of school canteens, children camps and outdoor schools
- ▶ inspects of epidemiologically significant services and accommodation facilities, facilities and buildings intended for swimming or saunas (joined mostly with taking water samples), supervision of public drinking water suppliers, noise audit and noise measuring with regard to residential area
- ▶ controls of workers exposed to hazardous work (work categorization), provision of labour-medical services
- ▶ controls of public catering facilities (both cooking and non-cooking – bars, pubs, gaming rooms)
- ▶ inspections of manufacturers, importers and distributors of products coming into contact with food (food contact materials and products, toys, cosmetics and products for children up to age 3 years)



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**REGIONAL
PUBLIC HEALTH
AUTHORITY
OF MORAVIAN-SILESIA
REGION
BASED IN OSTRAVA**



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Water

The Regional Public Health Authority (RPHA) participates as a national health supervisor in the area of water-related hygiene and in its prevention as well. RPHA assesses projects for drinking water supply and treatment, water treatment technologies and products coming into contact with drinking water.

Furthermore assesses projects for outdoor swimming pools, indoor pools and a rehab pools, including the approval of the operating rules of swimming pools, saunas and services epidemiologically significant. Inspects and supervises the quality of drinking water in public water supply systems and wells that serve as the public drinking water supply. An important aspect is the issue of the control of legionella bacteria in evaporative cooling systems. In recent years, increased attention is paid to monitoring and eventual elimination of mosquitoes.

Air

RPHA evaluates the health effects on the population caused by the air pollution, which is one of the risk factors of Moravian-Silesian Region. The role of RPHA on the ambient air is commenting of strategic materials (SEA) or documentation of the assessment of environmental impact (EIA) and in the implementation of regional health policy. Also projects to reduce emissions are supported, increased attention is being paid to the development of industrial zones and manufacturing companies with the aim of avoiding the impact of undesirable substances in the air on human health. There is support for low-emission transport and construction of bypasses and new corridors leading to smoothness and effectiveness of transport. RPHA focuses on the quality of the indoor environment within the state health supervision as well. One of RPHA tasks is to inform about the health risks of exposure of pollutants in the ambient air with an emphasis on smog situation or improper heating.



Working environment

Protection of public health also consists in a surveillance of a working environment of the population within the prevention and surveillance operations. The monitored factors include vibration, dust, noise, non-ionizing wave radiation or lasers. One of the objectives of environment protection is to ensure sufficiency of fresh air, a suitable amount of light and the right temperature. RPHA sees to establish specific conditions for the implementation of special protective disinfection, insect and rodent control by hazardous chemicals or highly toxic agents. Based on the risk level the jobs are divided into several categories. An important aspect of surveillance is dealing with occupational diseases and health risk assessment. RPHA also deals with the complaints of citizens to unsuitable working conditions.

Children and Juveniles

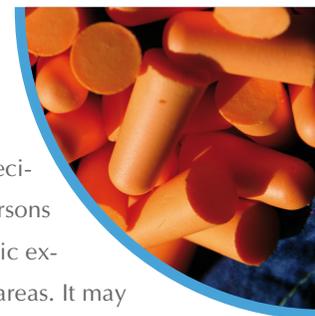
RPHA assesses the degree of severity of the environmental burden of children and juveniles exposed to risk factors of living and working conditions or a way of life. Controls the decision-making process in order to reduce health risks, controls and manages the local programs of health promotion and protection of children and juveniles, cooperates with administrative authorities and local authorities to develop health policy for children and adolescents.

Communicable diseases and drugs

In the case of the occurrence of an infectious disease the RPHA takes measures to prevent transmission to others. RPHA keeps registers of infectious disease and collects data on the incidence of communicable diseases. Data are evaluated, analysed and information on trends and incidence of infectious diseases are provided. RPHA organizes inviting of children to regular immunization. Subsequently observes the vaccination of children and persons who are subject to special or extraordinary vaccination. RPHA assesses infectious diseases related to occupation, implements a prevalence study of infectious diseases in hospitals and investigates resistant strains of bacteria. Performs monitoring of drug addictions and in cooperation with the National department of drugs epidemiology secures the collection and processing of data on addicted persons that have applied for help in the treatment contact centers.

Noise

One of the RPHA's main tasks is the protection of public health from an environmental noise. Specifically, the noise generated by persons or entrepreneurs to which is public exposed in the so-called protected areas. It may be a noise e.g. from the traffic on roads and highways, noise from railways or air transport, wind-power plants, industrial facilities, various dining facilities, noise from public performance of music or noise from many types of technology, especially of air conditioning equipment. A recent phenomenon is the noise from heat pumps. The protected areas include residential buildings, hospital facilities and educational facilities. The noise prevention projects to protect health are carried out as well as assessment of projects in the EIA process or project documentations and an accredited noise measurement within the national health surveillance.



Food

RPHA examines the causes and spread of foodborne diseases in all types of food operations from the production to distribution of foods on the market, takes of samples food and products coming into contact with food to verify their safety. Investigates complaints regarding the hygiene of the supervised facilities. Conducts investigations of health problems after consuming food or health problems associated with the use of products coming into contact with food. Verifies the presence of unsafe food or suspected products on

the region territory. RPHA tests mushroom knowledge, knowledge of persons engaged in the production and distribution of foods and cosmetics on the market, and organizes workshops for entrepreneurs in the dining and catering.

