



# **EMS Medical Director Report**

**Emergency Medical Care Committee  
May 22, 2025**



# Happy EMS Week 2025

Serving every patient, no matter who or where they are...

this is the work and mission of dedicated EMS clinicians everywhere



# EMS WEEK

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May 18-24, 2025  
We Care. For Everyone.



[EMS Week 2025: We Care. For Everyone. | EMS.gov](https://www.ems.gov)

# Topics

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1. Emerging Threats
2. EMS Protocols
3. Evidence Based Medicine Lecture Series
4. Modernizing EMS Delivery and Sustainability (H.R. 3443)
5. Cardiac Resuscitation Initiatives
  - Revive & Survive San Diego
  - ECPR Pilot Program



# 1. Emerging Threats

## Measles

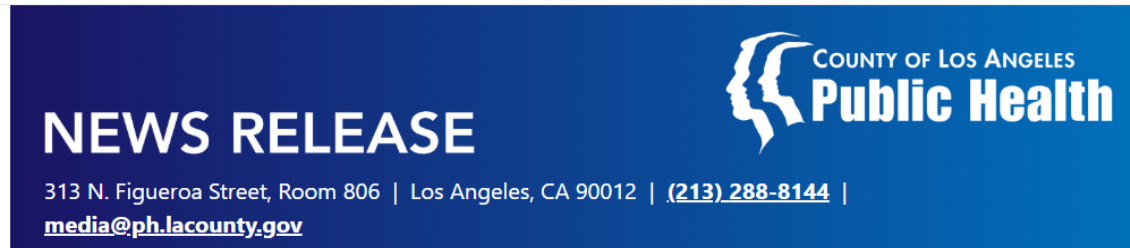
- HSCTF plan remains at lowest level, baseline surveillance
- Measles
  - [Measles Cases and Outbreaks | Measles \(Rubeola\) | CDC](#)
  - 1,024 confirmed cases reported by 31 jurisdictions (May 15)
  - [Dr. Eric Berg's Lecture](#): “Measles: What EMS Professionals Need to Know”
    - **Have readily available documentation of measles immunity to avoid 21-day quarantine of exposed EMS clinicians!**



# 1. Emerging Threats

## Hepatitis A

[Hepatitis A Dashboard Data](#) | [ACDC](#) | [LACDPH](#)



For Immediate Release:

May 05, 2025

### Public Health Declares Hepatitis A Outbreak in Los Angeles County

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has declared a community-wide outbreak of hepatitis A following a sustained increase in clinical cases and elevated virus levels detected in local wastewater. Public Health confirmed 165 hepatitis A cases in LA County since 2024, which is three times the number of cases reported in 2023. Although unhoused individuals are at higher risk for contracting hepatitis A infection because they often have limited access to handwashing and toileting facilities, of the 29 hepatitis A cases confirmed to date in 2025, most have been among people without travel or housing risk factors. This increase in hepatitis A infections among people without risk factors has corresponded with recent increases in hepatitis A wastewater concentrations. While the risk to the general public remains low, community-wide protection actions are needed to ensure that transmission of hepatitis A is reduced.

#### Vaccination and good hygiene are the best ways to prevent hepatitis A.

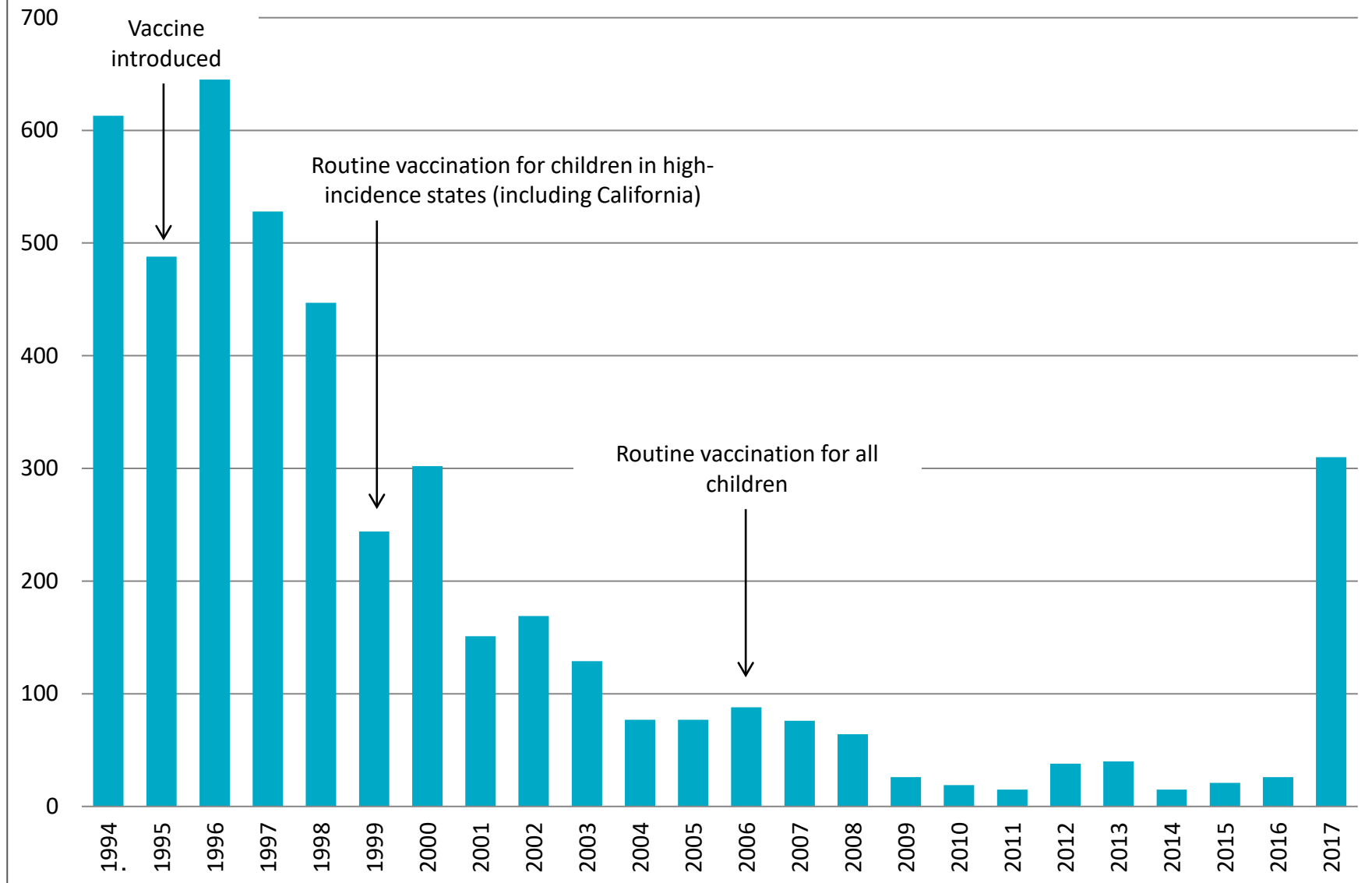
"The ongoing increase in hepatitis A cases signals that quick action is needed to protect public health," said Muntu Davis, MD, MPH, Los Angeles County Health Officer. "The hepatitis A vaccine is safe, effective, and offers long-term protection. Getting vaccinated is simple, and it's one of the most important things you can do for your own health and the health of our entire community. It is also important for residents to wash their hands with soap and water regularly and especially before eating and preparing food and after using the bathroom."

Public Health continues to monitor for and immediately investigate suspect hepatitis A cases and is working closely with healthcare providers to request that they remain vigilant for hepatitis A. Public Health is also working with organizations that serve people experiencing homelessness to educate the community about the increase in hepatitis A, encourage people to get vaccinated, and recommend those with symptoms of hepatitis A to seek medical care.

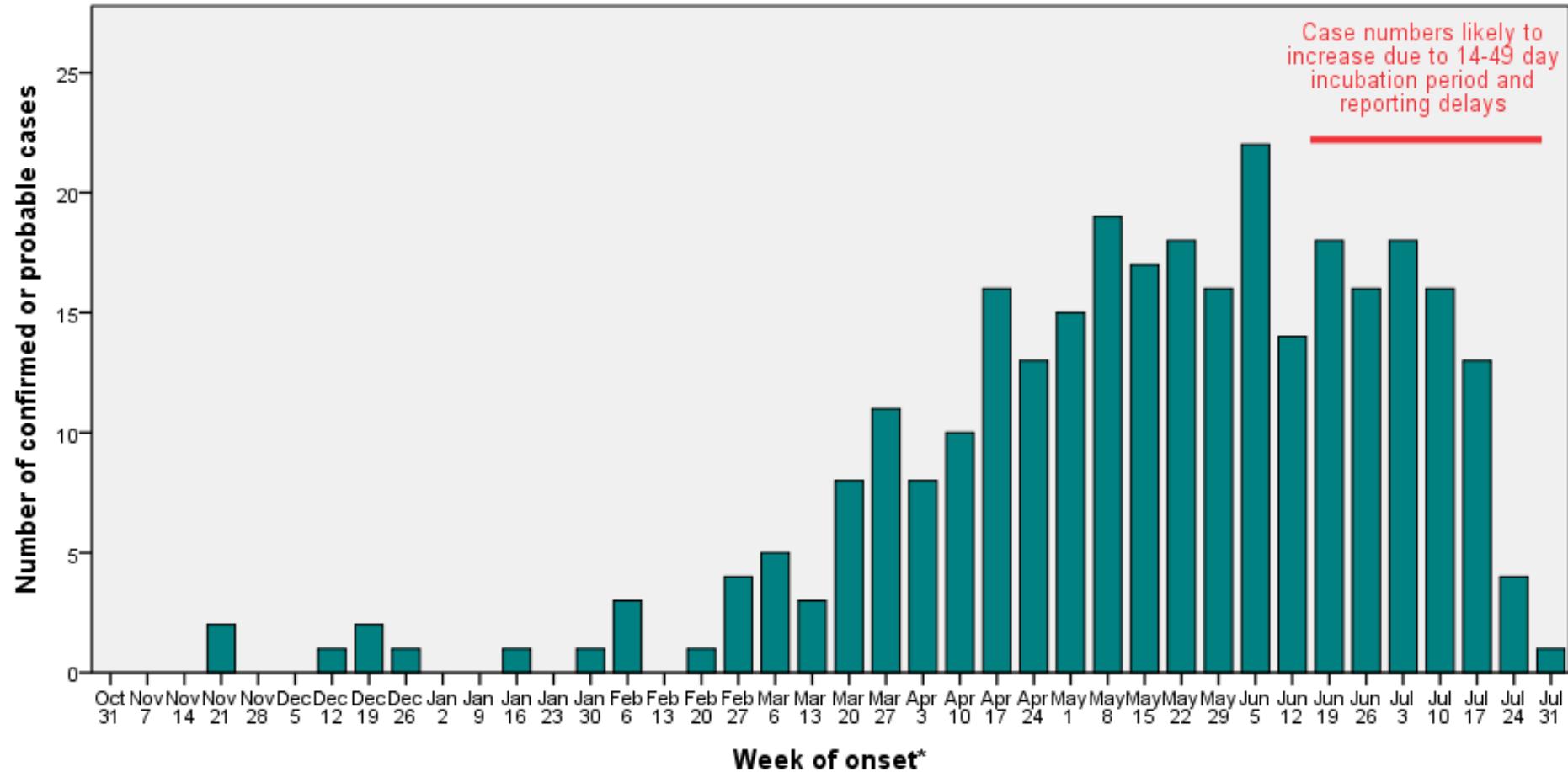
**Vaccination is Safe, Effective, and Urgently Needed for Those Who Are Unvaccinated or At High Risk**



## Hepatitis A Cases, San Diego County 1994-2017



**Outbreak-associated Hepatitis A cases by onset week**  
**11/1/2016–8/01/2017, N = 297\***



\*Date of specimen collection or report used if onset date unknown; dates may change as information becomes available



# Hepatitis A 3I Tool

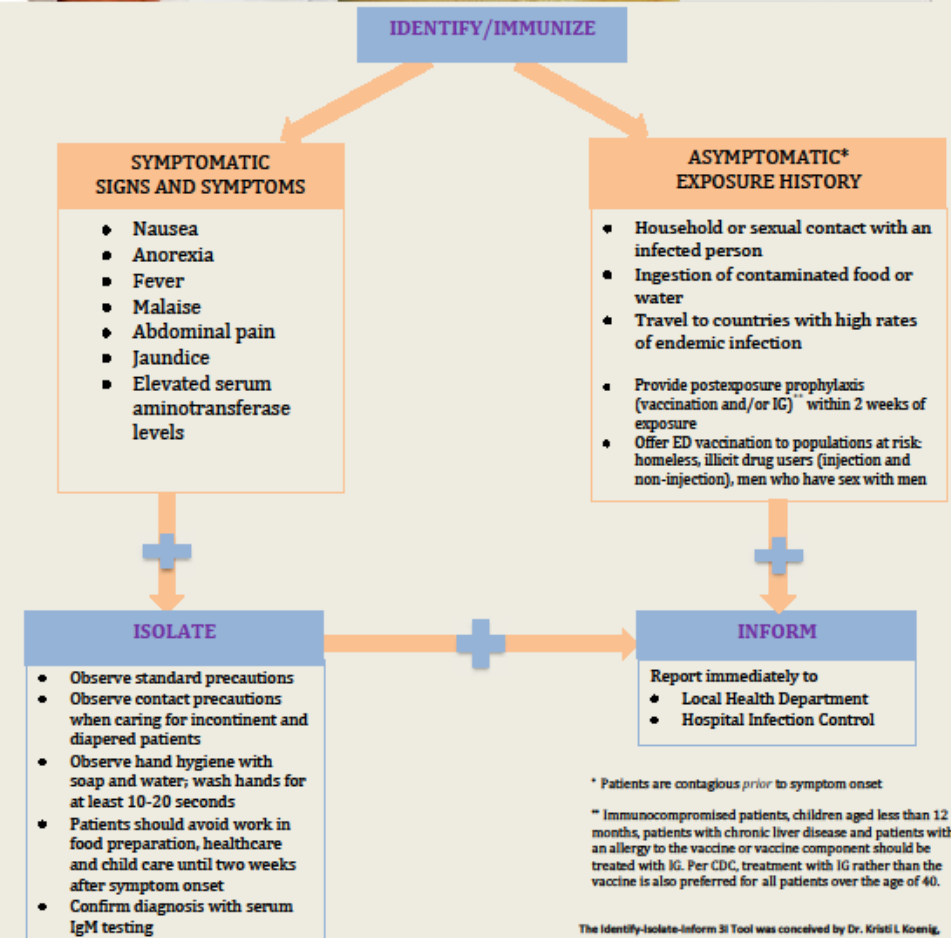
Identify/Immunize\*Isolate\*Inform

2017 Outbreak in San Diego through January 23, 2018

592 cases, 20 deaths

## Identify, Isolate, Inform Emergency Department Evaluation and Management of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for Hepatitis A Virus

Information Current as of October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017



The Identify-Isolate-Inform 3I Tool was conceived by Dr. Kristi L Koenig, County of San Diego EMS Medical Director & Professor Emerita, UC Irvine



# 1. Emerging Threats

## H5N1 (Bird Flu)

### Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)



## Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

EXPLORE TOPICS ▾

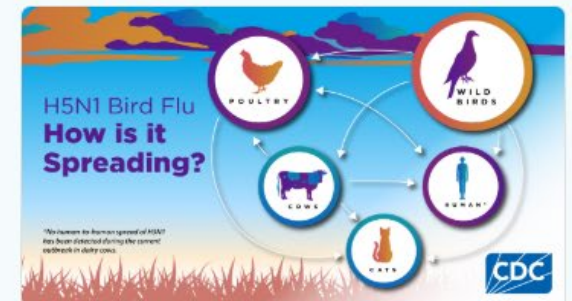
SEARCH

MAY 20, 2025 [ESPAÑOL](#)

## H5 Bird Flu: Current Situation

### WHAT TO KNOW

- H5 bird flu is widespread in wild birds worldwide and is causing outbreaks in poultry and U.S. dairy cows with several recent human cases in U.S. dairy and poultry workers.
- While the current public health risk is low, CDC is watching the situation carefully and working with states to monitor people with animal exposures.
- CDC is using its flu surveillance systems to monitor for H5 bird flu activity in people.



# 1. Emerging Threats

## H5N1 (Bird Flu) (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza)

HPAI is different from seasonal flu

Suspect in a dairy farm worker with flu-like symptoms, especially conjunctivitis

### Current situation

#### National situation summary

##### Person-to-person spread

NONE

There is no known person-to-person spread at this time.

##### Current public health risk

LOW

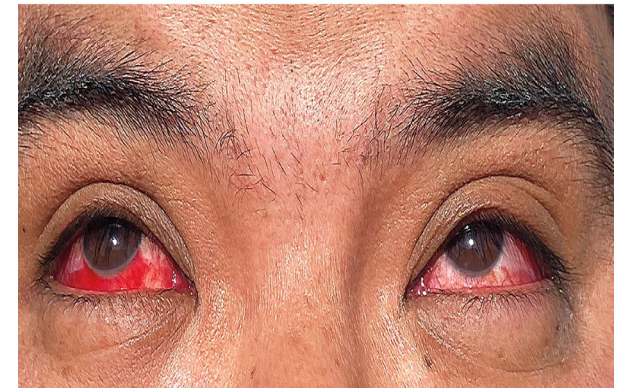
The current public health risk is Low.

##### Cases in the U.S.

70 cases

##### Deaths in U.S.

1 death



# 2. EMS Protocols

## 2025-2026 Revision Cycle

- Education materials and protocol packet distributed May 1 (for July 1 implementation)
- Novel Train-the-Trainer session held May 12
- Protocols and policies posted on the [EMS website](#)
  - Available on the [EMS Mobile App](#) July 1
- *Exploring creation of BSPC Protocol Workgroup for next cycle*



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

# 3. Evidence-Based Medicine Lecture Series

## EMS Medical Director's Advisory Committee

### Hot Topic: Prehospital Obstetrical Emergencies

- NAEMSP announces [EMS Model Guidelines](#) April 16
  - [Postpartum Hemorrhage](#)
  - [Elevated Blood Pressure in Pregnancy and Postpartum](#)
  - [Eclampsia](#)
- EBM presentation on May 20
  - Evaluation of California's 911 EMS Obstetric Protocols
- Meeting with State Surgeon General at quarterly EMDAC meeting on June 17



# 4. Modernizing EMS Delivery and Sustainability

## Proposed Federal Legislation (H.R. 3443 introduced May 15)

MEDS Bill focuses on three main areas

- Assessment of the value of EMS physician medical direction
- Availability of *essential medications* and *blood products* for EMS patients
- Transparency of *wall times* at hospitals during transfer of care
- [H.R.3443 - 119th Congress \(2025-2026\): To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to create a model, and to direct the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission to carry out a study and report with respect to Medicare payment for emergency medical services. | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)



# 5. Cardiac Resuscitation Programs

## A. Revive & Survive San Diego

- Goal: Train 1 million San Diegans in hands-only CPR
  - 482,435 trained so far! (48% of goal)
  - 12,814 training sessions

[SD HHSA on X](#)

Revive & Survive community partner AMR trained 300+ people in hands-only CPR @Padres!



**UC San Diego**  
HERBERT WERTHEIM  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
HUMAN LONGEVITY SCIENCE



# 5. Cardiac Resuscitation Programs

## A. Revive & Survive San Diego

### Train-a-Thon Challenge!

### CPR and AED Awareness Week Train-a-Thon

June 1 – 7

Join us as we train **1 MILLION**  
San Diegans in hands-only CPR

#### Participate, Plan and Promote

- Lead\* at least one hands-only CPR training session during the week. If the training is open to the public, please share the details using the QR code below **before June 1** to be posted on the Revive & Survive San Diego calendar.
- Report training numbers on our reporting survey **by June 9**.

\*Include the Revive & Survive San Diego logo at your training session and in marketing materials.





# 5. Cardiac Resuscitation Programs

## B. ECPR Pilot Program (start date July 1, 2023)

- [Local Mom Who Survived Cardiac Arrest for 86 Minutes Celebrates One Year Anniversary](#)
- Meeting or exceeding goals
  - *Get off scene in 15!*
  - Time <45 minutes from OHCA to arrival at ECPR hospital



<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/ems/ecpr-pilot-program.html>



# New Public Health Officer

**Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan**

Previously served County as

- Deputy Public Health Officer
- EMS Medical Director



[County Names New Public Health Officer](#) | [News](#) | [San Diego County News Center](#)

# Questions?

