County of San Diego
HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting | Zoom| CAC Rm 302

Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 3:00pm to 5:00pm
MEETING MINUTES

SEAT	DISTRICT	PRIMARY	ALTERNATE	ATTEND	PRESENTERS	HHSA SUPPORT
13			Abrams, Lauren (Alternate)		**Sayone Thihalolipavan,** MD, MPH, Public Health Officer, Public Health Services Administration **Addrienne Yancey,** MPH., Interim Director, Public Health Services Administration, HHSA **Stefanie Sekich,** Senior Special Advisor, Board of Supervisor Paloma Aguirre.	Sayone Thihalolipavan, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer, PHS, HHSA Addrienne Yancey, MPH, Interim Director, PHS, HHSA Anuj Bhatia, DrPH, Deputy Director, PHS, HHSA Patrick Loose, Interim Assistant Director, PHS, HHSA Rick DeHaven, Information Technology Analyst, PHS Admin, HHSA Joshua Beidler, Administrative Secretary II, PHS Admin, HHSA Kathrina Fulgueras, Administrative Secretary III, PHS Admin, HHSA
2	1		Afflalo, Dr. Suzanne (Alternate)	IP		
6	3	Alexander-Myers, Deanna				
12		Alexiou, Dimitrios				
8	4		Arroyo, Geysil (Vice-chair)	IP		
20	2		Coda, Besma (Alternate)			
17		Dailey, Jack		IP		
4	2	Floyd, Victoria				
14		Franciscus, Joanne		IP		
13		Fraser, Tim		IP		
9	3		Galindez, Aida (Alternate)			
18	3		Greene, Dorothy (Alternate)			
11		Hegyi, Paul				
2	1	Ilango, Samhita		IP		
14			Jacobs, Kris (Alternate)			
3	2	Jantz, Barry (Chair)				
7	4	Lepanto, James		IP		
11			Ohmstede, Jennipher (Alternate)			
17			Perez, Alex (Alternate)			
16		Seldin, Dr. Harriet		IP		
	2	Sly, Kelsey		IP		

SEAT	DISTRICT	PRIMARY	ALTERNATE	ATTEND	PRESENTERS	HHSA SUPPORT
12			Sumek, Caryn (Alternate)	IP		
5	3	Walters, Todd				
16			Tellez, Dr. Patrick (Alternate)	IP		
		Clark Manson, Minola		Z		

Attendance Key: IP = In person, Z = Zoom

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	**A. Roll Call** a. **Geysil Arroyo** called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. b. **Roll Call:** All members in attendance indicated "here". **Board Members in person:** Tim Fraser, Dr. Harriet Seldin, Jack Dailey, Caryn Sumek, Joanne Franciscus, Samhita Ilango, Dr. Patrick Tellez, James Lepanto, Geysil Arroyo, Dr. Suzanne Afflalo, Kelsey Sly **B. Remarks from the Chairperson.** a. None. **C. Approval of September Agenda** a. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Jack Dailey and seconded by Joanne Franciscus b. **Roll Call:** Samhita Ilango abstained. All other members in attendance voted Aye. **Board Members in person:** Tim Fraser, Dr. Harriet Seldin, Jack Dailey, Caryn Sumek, Joanne Franciscus, Samhita Ilango, Dr. Patrick Tellez, James Lepanto, Geysil Arroyo, Dr. Suzanne Afflalo, Kelsey Sly **D. Approval of August Meeting Minutes** a. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Joanne Franciscus and seconded by Tim Fraser. **Roll Call:** Samhita Ilango and Geysil Arroyo abstained. All other members in attendance voted Aye. **Board Members in person:** Tim Fraser, Dr. Harriet Seldin, Jack Dailey, Caryn Sumek, Joanne Franciscus, Samhita Ilango, Dr. Patrick Tellez, James Lepanto, Geysil Arroyo, Dr. Suzanne Afflalo, Kelsey Sly **E. HSAB Attendance Confirmation** a. One HSAB member is out due to just cause.
II. PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no public comment.
III. DISCUSSION ITEMS **A. Tijuana River Valley Presentation,** Stefanie Sekich, Senior Special Advisor, Board of Supervisor Paloma Aguirre.	**Tijuana River Valley Presentation,** Stefanie Sekich, Senior Special Advisor, Board of Supervisor Paloma Aguirre. 


THE BIGGEST
PUBLIC HEALTH
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE
EMERGENCY
IN THE U.S.

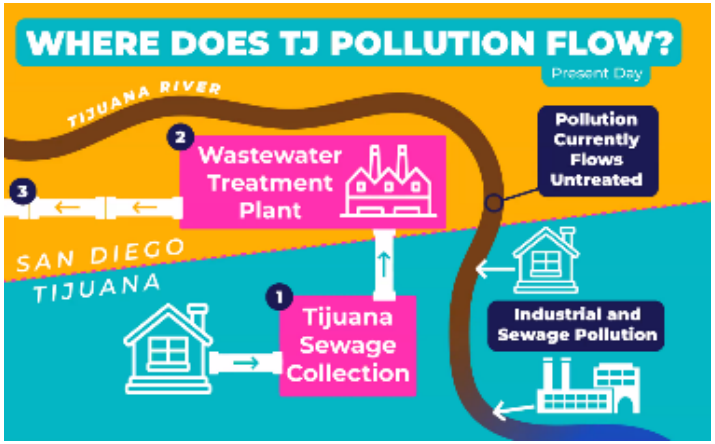

OVER 200 BILLION GALLONS
OF SEWAGE AND INDUSTRIAL
WASTE HAS CROSSED OUR
BORDER SINCE 2018

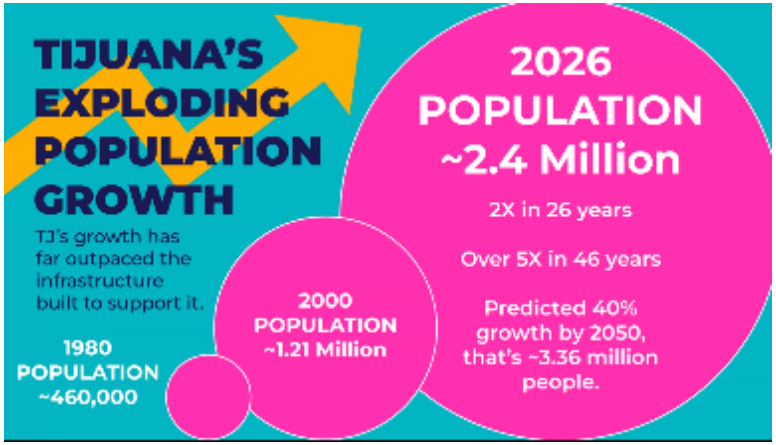

Century Old Problem
CIRCULATION AUDITED BY CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
Chula Vista Star
September 16, 1932
WATER PROBLEM
CLOSES SCHOOL
IN SAN YSIDRO
"The water is said to give off a sickening stench, is dirty in color and is declared by everyone interviewed by The Star to be absolutely unfit for drinking and hardly fit for bathing or washing clothes"

A Short History of the TJRV Pollution Crisis

- **1933** — First sewage complaints reach Imperial Beach residents, when Tijuana's population was around 14,000
- **1944** — U.S. / Mexico treaty creates the IBWC and commits both governments to prioritizing border sanitation problems
- **2015** — Minute 320 sets up binational work groups on water quality, sediment, and trash
- **2020** — USMCA earmarks $300 million to upgrade sewage treatment
- **2022** — Minute 328 signed, committing to expand the South Bay plant so it can double its treatment capacity
- **2024**— USMCA earmarks $350 million USMCA earmarks $300 million
- **2025** — Minute 333 signed, committing both nations to new infrastructure projects, evaluations, and monitoring






TIJUANA'S EXPLODING POPULATION GROWTH
TJ's growth has far outpaced the infrastructure built to support it.
1980 POPULATION ~460,000
2000 POPULATION ~1.21 Million
2026 POPULATION ~2.4 Million
2X in 26 years
Over 5X in 46 years
Predicted 40% growth by 2050, that's ~3.36 million people.


UNITED STATES
MEXICO
TJ RIVER
10% of homes are not hooked up to sewage infrastructure
Highlighted buildings are new construction between 2017 and 2025


MAQUILADORAS ARE FOREIGN-OWNED MANUFACTURING PLANTS
TIJUANA IS HOME TO 128 INDUSTRIAL PARKS
115+ MILLION SQ FT
$40+ BILLION
SOME OF THE 600+ COMPANIES OPERATING IN TJ
Panasonic
TOYOTA
amazon
SAMSUNG
Honeywell
Qualcomm
Medtronic
FOXCONN
DHL
BOEING
ThermoFisher SCIENTIFIC
Infineon
SANYO


NEARLY 4 YEARS OF BEACH CLOSURES
KEEP OUT OF WATER
UCSD Study
2017
34,000 illnesses were attributed to water-quality pollution along the coastline of Imperial Beach

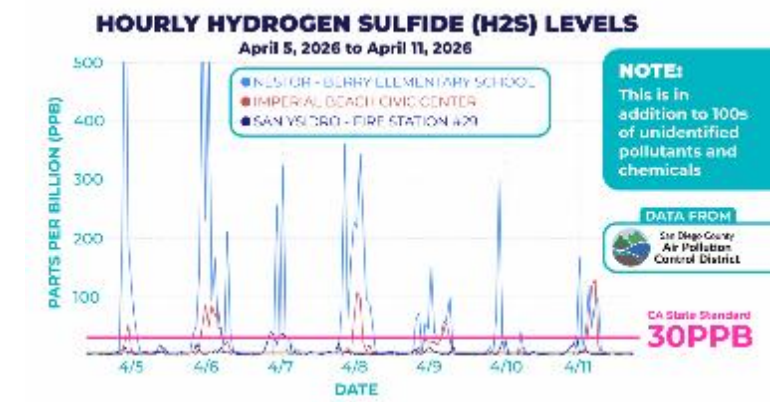

SATURN BOULEVARD HOT SPOT
(AS SEEN FROM SPACE)


Saturn Blvd Hot Spot
Water rushes through aging pipes, aerating hydrogen sulfide gas and other pollutants into the surrounding air.






1 2 3
AIR MONITOR LOCATIONS
IMPERIAL BEACH CIVIC CENTER 1
NESTOR - BERRY ELEMENTARY 2
SATURN BLVD HOT SPOT
SAN YSIDRO - FIRE STATION 29 3





92% Do not feel safe in the areas where they live, work

64% Reported new or worsening physical symptoms

28% Reported symptoms of anxiety

21% Reported symptoms of depression

65% Of participants feel their mental health symptoms are related to the sewage crisis.

CDC HEALTH STUDY

ACE STUDY: 2,100 survey respondents

63% Report at least one sign of emotional distress

65% Report taking extra steps to avoid certain areas of their own neighborhood

70% Report disruptions in their household life including exercise, social activity, sleep schedule and more.

CDC HEALTH STUDY

Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)

Testimonies





Impacts to our National Security







Board of Supervisors TJRV Subcommittee

PALOMA AGUIRRE

TERRA LAWSON-REMER

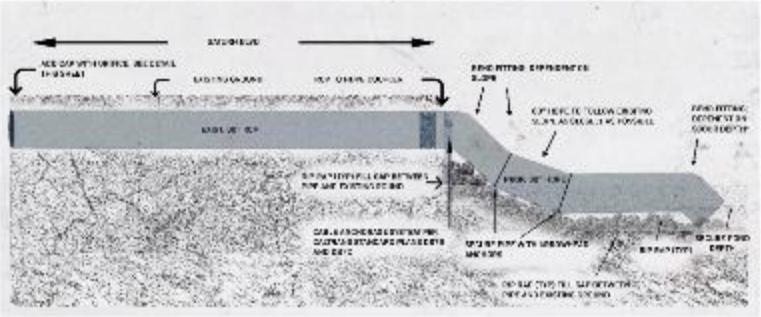


Air Purifier Program

- Stop gap until infrastructure upgrades
- Survey Response
- 40,000 impacted households
- 15,000 distributed and 17,000 more on the way
- 2025 funding $8M. $4M funded.
- Building partnerships and working with County, State and Federal entities to secure funding for this program



Saturn Blvd Infrastructure Upgrade





Epidemiological Study

- First step toward understanding long-term health consequences
- Must protect children **today**— ensuring future generations don't inherit preventable illness
- Study bolsters evidence and community **voices**



Epidemiological Studies

FUNDED AND IN PROGRESS		AWAITING FUNDING
Retrospective Looking back at health patterns in the community	Exposure Characterization Determine contact between pollutants and the affected population	Long Term Option Ongoing health study of the same people over time
ONE YEAR	ONE YEAR	MULTI-YEAR

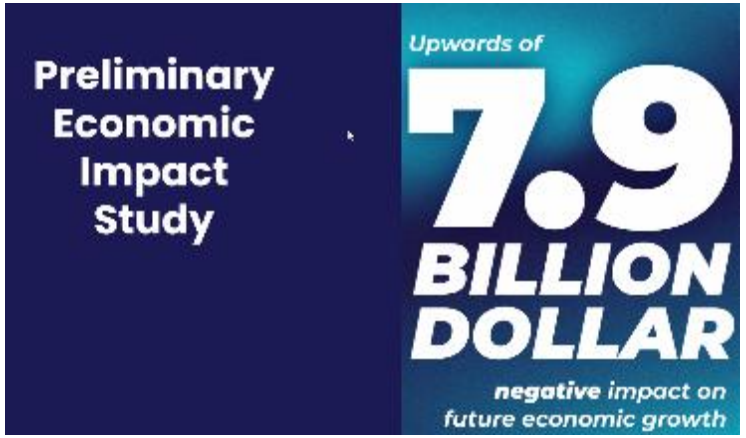


Soil Testing

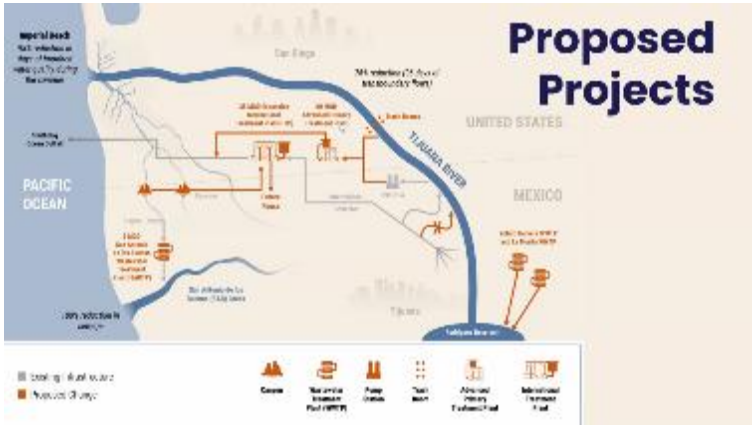
Soil testing in Tijuana River Valley for toxicity and ecological impacts

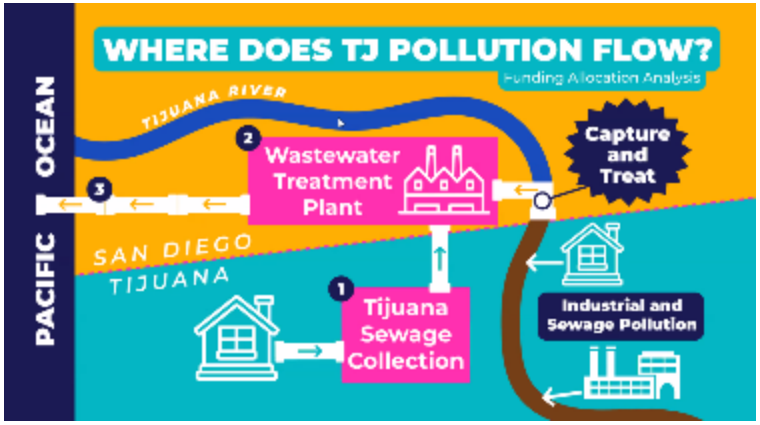
Preliminary Economic Impact Study




Preliminary Economic Impact Study
Upwords of
7.9
BILLION DOLLAR
negative impact on future economic growth


Legislative Advocacy
TESTIFYING IN SACRAMENTO
SENATE BILL 58
AIR QUALITY STANDARD FOR HYDROGEN SULFIDE
THE ASSEMBLYMEMBER
Advocating for legislation and funding at local, state and federal levels to implement rapid solutions to the pollution crisis.


Proposed Projects
PACIFIC OCEAN
UNITED STATES
MEXICO
TIJUANA RIVER





Question and Answer:

Joanne Franciscus: What is the expected timeline for finishing soil study?
Stefanie Sekich: The soil study will take about two years to complete because we need to evaluate all 12 sites across both the dry and wet seasons.
Joanne Franciscus: Does the facility have the capacity for the capture and treat plan?
Stefanie Sekich: That is what a feasibility study will tell us, how it happens. We could build a brand new ATPT, which is an advanced treatment plant. The City of San Diego has a water reclamation plant that can also be fed into to take that as a footprint of where it can be treated. And then there's other ways that some people advocate for looking at, like, tertiary treatment, which is basically drinking water. You are literally treating it through drinking level standards. These are different things that people can do, but there would have to be an upgrade. There definitely would have to be a footprint upgrade to ensure that what we're capturing is properly treated.

Dr. Harriet Seldin: We've heard before on the federal side that the EPA gave a look a while back. Any update on what's happening? Because it was such a big deal that they were going to get involved, so, are they?
Stefanie Sekich: There has been, a lot of great content under the Biden administration and the Trump administration. The Biden administration got $650 million to upgrade the AWC. So that was already in place, and then the Trump administration has come on and working on those upgrades. That's all moving along, but as I mentioned, that's not sufficient because it's not treating the river. The EPA, under the Biden administration, did look at this river diversion, and they had to prioritize and take care of the upgrades on our side, help Mexico take care of their upgrades on their side, and then go to these other projects. So, the EPA for years has been in the fray, and looking for really comprehensive solutions.

Tim Fraser: What legal routes could be taken by the state and federal government to sue Mexico? This is a large cost that the County is going to need to bear, and my understanding is the tax and sales tax initiative, help fund a 10-year bond, and take billion dollars, and then there's ongoing maintenance and everything else, so the County of San Diego is about to get into the wastewater treatment business, which is not the role of the County. What you showed me is really the role of the federal government. How are we balancing whose responsibility and holding those accountable, instead of letting them off the hook and having us take the burden of cost? We also have a lot of health problems. Why haven't we declared a health emergency as part of it?
Stefanie Sekich: I think what's happening now with the upgrades are not going to treat the river. Until we treat the river, we're going to have problems. The County will be helping as a partnership. We have to work with IBWC, the county, the state, the federal government, and the Mexican government on this. Right now, there's some legislation where it would allow the IBWC, and it's by Congressman Peters, that would allow the IBWC to take money from other entities, apparently. This is still under the guise of IBWC and the federal government and has to go through the EPA.
Two federal governments can't sue each other. The IBWC has been sued multiple times by this regional water quality control. Another agency sued them. A lot of NGOs have sued them because of their lack of maintenance. That's where all those lawsuits came from.
Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan: I think of a local emergency as broader. When you have a fire, when you have an earthquake or something, you usually declare a local emergency, and that includes health. We already have a local emergency. This is the only emergency that continues to be proclaimed in San Diego County. Since 2023, we re-up it, or continue to reclaim it every 60 days, with our Board of Supervisors. The only additional value of health emergency is the name, symbolism, and what comes behind it by calling it a health emergency. We're continuing, of course, to understand the data, waiting on some of the researchers to better understand what chemicals are of concern. If there was no local emergency already proclaimed, then I think it would be fair, it makes sense to do a health emergency, but because one is already proclaimed, there's not really as much value add right now. I think this is a little subjective. Different health officers could have different interpretations and come to different conclusions, but it's definitely a toolbox.

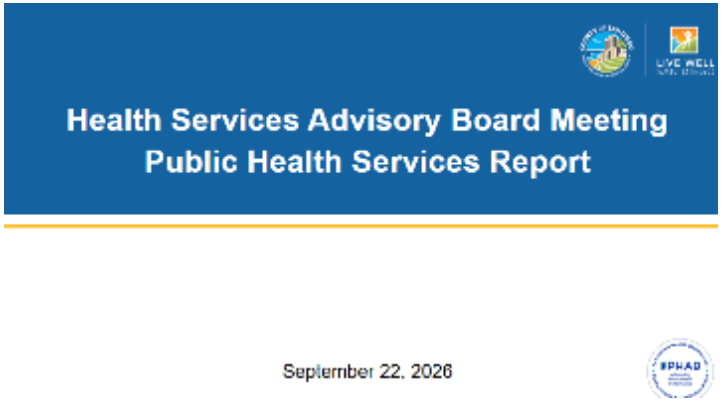
James Lepanto: We are relying on tax increase, is there an alternative plan for that funding?
Stefanie Sekich: EPA has already studied this, and so we would use our federal channels to get federal funding. We would use state to get state funding. We could potentially use some County funds, if that's on the table, the Board of Supervisors wanted to do that. There are different ways to look at this. One institution, it's called North American Development Bank (NADBank), where they fund projects on both sides of the border, so that there's international channels. By no means are

	we just saying this is going to happen because of the sales tax. The congressional delegation has already gotten so much money to finally solve this problem.
IV. REPORTS **A. Youth Engagement**	**Youth Engagement** Multiple notifications have been sent to the Board of Supervisors to encourage their participation in the HSAB Youth Engagement Project. In August, Barry Jantz and James Lepanto met with Virginia Casey, Policy Advisor, and Christopher Partridge, Community Outreach Manager, from the Office of District 2 County Supervisor Joel Anderson. Virginia and Christopher were incredibly supportive of the HSAB model and felt that it was valuable and aligned with some of Supervisor Anderson's priorities. They wanted to help HSAB by collaborating. Virginia offered support by: • Communicating with other Board of Supervisors offices and presenting the HSAB proposal and outline. • Helping to build partnerships for a project coalition, including gathering letters of support for the Board of Supervisors. Virginia's team compiled a list of approximately 50 organizations for us to contact, all of which focus on youth and youth voice. We appreciate the effort the Supervisor's office put into developing this resource. This week, she is also sharing the list with Chair Lawson-Remer's policy advisor and plans to present it in person to the Chair's office. Our next step is to meet and identify the organizations from which we can request letters of support.
B. Meetings with Supervisor Offices	**Meetings with Supervisor Offices** Tim Fraser will be meeting with Districts 3 and 4 and has already had conversations with District 1, where he plans to mention HSAB. Dr. Suzanne Afflalo has been working closely with the Supervisors on the Safety Net Bridge Program, particularly with Districts 1 and 4.

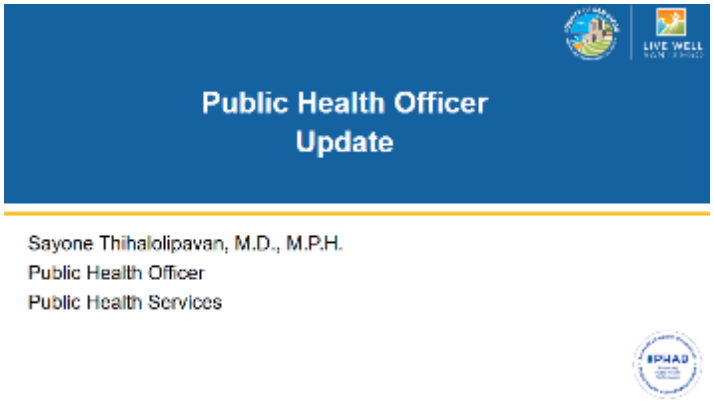
V. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES LEADERSHIP REPORT

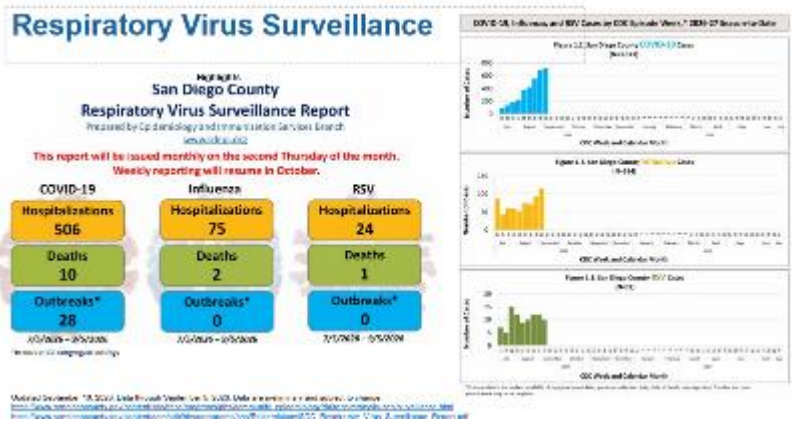
Sayone Thihalolipavan, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Officer, PHS

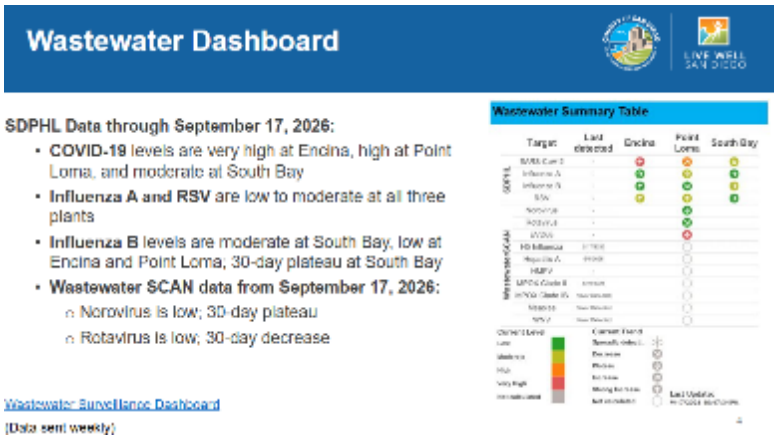
Addrienne Yancey, Interim Director, PHS

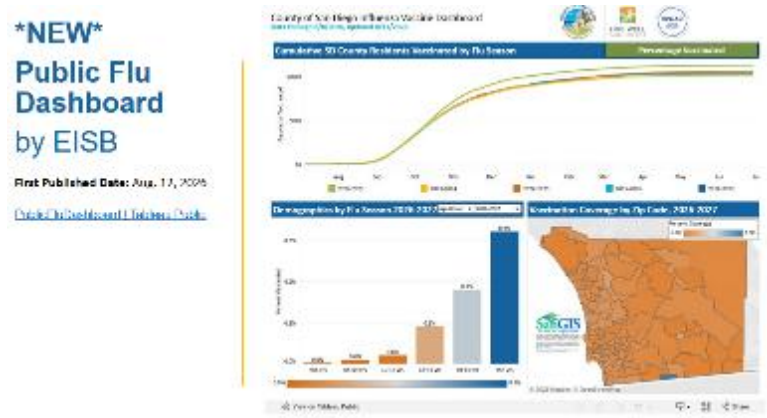


Public Health Officer Update
Sayone Thihalolipavan, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Officer, PHS




Respiratory Virus Surveillance
San Diego County
Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report
This report will be issued monthly on the second Thursday of the month.
Weekly reporting will resume in October.
COVID-19
Hospitalizations
506
Deaths
10
Outbreaks*
28
Influenza
Hospitalizations
75
Deaths
2
Outbreaks*
0
RSV
Hospitalizations
24
Deaths
1
Outbreaks*
0


Wastewater Dashboard
LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO
SDPHL Data through September 17, 2026:
COVID-19 levels are very high at Encina, high at Point Loma, and moderate at South Bay
Influenza A and RSV are low to moderate at all three plants
Influenza B levels are moderate at South Bay, low at Encina and Point Loma, 30-day plateau at South Bay
Wastewater SCAN data from September 17, 2026:
Norovirus is low; 30-day plateau
Rotavirus is low; 30-day decrease
Wastewater Summary Table
Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard
[Data sent weekly]

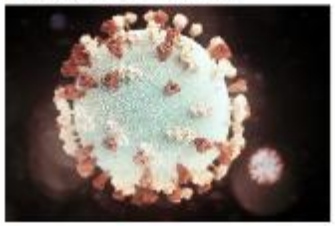

NEW
Public Flu Dashboard
by EISB
First Published Date:

CDPH | Consensus WCHA 2026-2027 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations

Age/Condition	COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
Children	• All 6–23 months • All 2–18 years with risk factors or never vaccinated against COVID-19 • All who are in close contact with others with risk factors[2] • All who choose to reduce risk of severe illness	• All 6 months and older[3]	• All younger than 8 months[4] • All 8–19 months with risk factors
Pregnancy	• All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant or postpartum	• All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant or postpartum	• All who are 32–36 weeks gestational age[5]
Adults	• All 65 years and older • All 19–64 years with risk factors • All who are in close contact with others with risk factors[2] • All who choose to reduce risk of severe illness	• All	• All 75 years and older[4] • All 50–74 years with risk factors[4]
Healthcare Workers	• All	• All	• All who meet criteria above

1. COVID-19 vaccine is available for persons 6 months or older.
2. Persons who are at high risk of RSV outcomes (i.e., those with underlying medical conditions, those who are aged 65 years and older, and those who are pregnant during the season) can receive RSV vaccine during pregnancy if the benefits outweigh the risks, since other RSV vaccines are not available.
3. Persons who are at high risk of RSV outcomes (i.e., those with underlying medical conditions, those who are aged 65 years and older, and those who are pregnant during the season) can receive RSV vaccine during pregnancy if the benefits outweigh the risks, since other RSV vaccines are not available.
4. RSV vaccination during pregnancy is the preferred recommendation, since other RSV products are not available.

County Confirms Mumps Outbreak at San Diego State University



County Confirms Mumps Outbreak at San Diego State University | News - San Diego County News Center

- County Public Health Services (PHS) has confirmed a mumps outbreak at San Diego State University (SDSU) and is coordinating with school leadership on notifications to the campus community.
- A similar mumps outbreak on the SDSU campus occurred in 2025 and was contained through collaboration between the County and SDSU.
- As of Sept. 18, five confirmed and probable cases have been identified, all among student athletes on a single team. The first known symptom onset began on Sept. 6, with the case confirmed this week.
- Vaccination is the most effective strategy to prevent and control mumps outbreaks; however, it is known that immunity may wane over time. After the U.S. mumps vaccination program started in 1967, there has been a more than 99% decrease in mumps cases in the United States.
- For more information related to the SDSU mumps exposure please visit Mumps | Outbreaks & Information | Student Affairs and Campus Diversity | SDSU.

Second CDC Health Survey Underway in South Bay



- The County of San Diego and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention launched a second Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) survey in neighborhoods adjacent to the Tijuana River Valley.
- The survey follows an earlier CASPER conducted in October 2024 and will focus on impacts from the ongoing Tijuana River Valley sewage pollution crisis.
- From Sept. 17 through Sept. 19, volunteers wearing vests and official badges will be visiting randomly selected neighborhoods near the Tijuana River Valley.
- Residents will be invited to participate in an in-person, voluntary, anonymous 20 minute survey at their homes.
- Survey responses will come from a new group of households in the same general area and will guide public health planning, emergency response, and support efforts to secure additional state and federal funding and action.

County Public Health Issues Warning to Federal Detention Center for Continued Failure to Report Communicable Diseases



- The Otay Mesa Detention Center was provided with a letter warning that continued failure to comply with its duty to report a communicable disease to the County of San Diego may lead to professional licensing actions.
- It is critical to promptly report communicable diseases, including suspected or confirmed tuberculosis, in a timely manner to the County Public Health Officer to protect the health and safety of those who live, work and visit in the detention center.
- The County noted similar disease reporting concerns in a report issued following a June 12, 2025, inspection of the detention center.
- Recommendations in the report clearly stated the need and importance of coordination. The County has also provided training to the detention center's staff.
- The June inspection took place after the County took legal action to conduct an onsite health and environmental review. The County is continuing to pursue in court its right to conduct future inspections.

County Public Health Issues Warning to Federal Detention Center for Continued Failure to Report Communicable Diseases | News | San Diego County News Center

County Public Health Leaders Stress Fall Vaccinations to Prevent Severe Illness



- The County rolled out a new influenza vaccination dashboard this week, just as flu shots hit clinics and pharmacies across the region. The interactive tool lets you track flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccination rates—and it's updated weekly to help you stay informed.
- The County urges everyone to get their vaccines this Fall. Aligning with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the West Coast Health Alliance, the message is clear: protecting yourself helps protect your family and community.

Who's Most At Risk

- Infants, young children, older adults, pregnant people, residents of group settings, and close contacts of vulnerable people.
- Healthcare workers, whose protection ensures critical community resilience.

How to Get Vaccinated

- Visit your health care provider or MyTurn.ca.gov to schedule your vaccine.
- If you are uninsured or underinsured, you can visit a public health center.

County Public Health Leaders Stress Fall Vaccinations to Prevent Severe Illness | News | San Diego County News Center

National Increase in Reported Human Rabies Exposures



- Last Sunday, Safari Park employees found a dead bat, which later tested positive for rabies at the County Public Health Lab.
- This was the 43rd rabid bat identified countywide this year, twice the number of the previous year, which was a record high of 21.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued put out a national health alert Thursday warning of rising human rabies exposures across the country.
- The most recent rabid bat was found outside near the Mombasa Restaurant at the Safari Park at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 6. The bat had already died and was not part of the park's animal collection. No human contact has been reported.
- Anyone who had direct contact with this bat should call the County's Epidemiology unit (619) 692-8499.

National Increase in Reported Human Rabies Exposures | News | San Diego County News Center

County Reaffirms Current Childhood Vaccine Schedule



County Reaffirms Current Childhood Vaccine Schedule | News | San Diego County News Center

- San Diego County Public Health is reaffirming its support of the current childhood vaccine schedule recommend by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), West Coast Health Alliance and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).
- Health officials note that the combined measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is safe and effective in its combined form and not linked to autism.

Families are encouraged to:

- Follow the AAP-recommended vaccination schedule, as endorsed by CDPH and San Diego County.
- Complete vaccines on time rather than delaying or splitting appointments ensuring full protection against measles, whooping cough, polio, and other diseases.
- Speak with healthcare providers to address any concerns or unique health situations impacting vaccination timing.

See Joint West Coast Health Alliance Statement on Recommendations for Vaccinations for full message

El Nino Prep



Planning & Coordination:

- The Public Health and Preparedness (PHPR) Branch is integrated into the OES-led planning team focused on potential effects of "Super El Niño" on healthcare facilities.
- Information from these meetings is being shared with the San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition and its Advisory Committee.

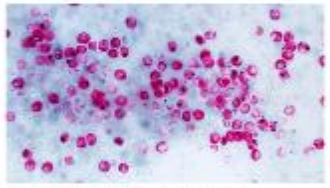
Lessons Learned & Improvement:

- PHPR is reviewing and sharing lessons learned from the January 2024 flood response.
- Also reviewing lessons learned from the April 2025 Medical Response and Surge Exercise that included a flood and water outage scenario.

LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

15

Crypto Illness Linked to Gaylord Resort; All Pools Reopened After Thorough Disinfection



Crypto Illness Linked to Gaylord Resort; All Pools Reopened After Thorough Disinfection | News | San Diego County News Center

- The County has concluded an investigation into cryptosporidiosis exposure at swimming pools, spas, and the water park at the Gaylord Pacific Resort in Chula Vista.
- Resort guests reported illnesses after visiting the resort's pools between July 24 and Aug. 15.
- Three cases were confirmed through laboratory testing, and a fourth was reported by a family member. Symptoms usually start two to 10 days after exposure and last one to two weeks.
- On Aug. 25, after being alerted by County staff, Gaylord Pacific voluntarily closed all pools and began a CDC-recommended hyperchlorination treatment to eliminate the parasite.
- County inspectors visited the resort on Aug. 26, 27 and 28 and verified that proper procedures were completed. All pools, spas and water park features were cleared to reopen on Aug. 28.
- If you have any questions about the status of the pool, please call the County Pool Program line at (858) 505-6000 or e-mail fhdusych@sdcounty.ca.gov or call the Gaylord Pacific Resort.

16

New Tool Makes Applying for Benefits Faster and Easier



- A new BenefitsCal feature called True now helps CalFresh, CalWORKs, Medi-Cal and County General Relief applicants save time, reduce paperwork and avoid mailing costs.
- The tool launched July 20, 2026, and verifies income and employment electronically during the e-application process.

How True Works

- When applying through BenefitsCal, customers can securely sign in to their employer, payroll provider or financial institution.
- True uses secure, encrypted channels, and no information is shared outside the County of San Diego.

Why It Matters

- Using True means customers don't need to search for documents, manually enter income details or pay postage to mail paperwork. It also reduces the chance of manually entered errors.
- Application processing timelines vary
  - CalFresh reviews can take up to 30 days.
  - Medi-Cal reviews can take up to 45 days.

New Tool Makes Applying for Benefits Faster and Easier | News | San Diego County News Center

UNDERSTANDING MEDI-CAL CHANGES

Do you or someone you care for have Medi-Cal? Important changes are coming in 2027 that could affect your healthcare, work requirements, and eligibility. Join us for a free community presentation to learn what these changes mean for you and your family and get simple steps on how to stay covered.

Whether you're a Medi-Cal member, caregiver or community advocate, learn what to expect, ask questions, and leave with tools and resources to help yourself and others stay informed. Check the list below to find the event that works best for you.

FIND A COMMUNITY EDUCATION SESSION NEAR YOU:

- **Sept 19 | 11am-1pm:** Rancho Nuevo Family YMCA, San Pedro
  Dayton and Spanish
- **Oct 10 | 11am-1pm:** Copley-Price Family YMCA, City Heights
  Dayton, Spanish, Vietnamese, Hindi, Urdu, and Sorani
- **Nov 7 | 11am-1pm:** Ronald Reagan Community Center, El Cajon
  Dayton, Spanish, Arabic, Kirmanshahi
- **Dec 9 | 6pm-7pm:** Virtual Session, Zoom link provided
  Dayton and Spanish
- **Jan 9 | 11am-1pm:** Jackie Robinson Family YMCA, Southeast San Diego
  Dayton and Spanish
- **Jan 30 | 11am-1pm:** Escondido YMCA, Escondido
  Dayton and Spanish

These series are brought to you by the YMCA of San Diego County in partnership with:

blue CAPITAL PROMISE · Community Health Group · KAISER PERMANENTE · MOLINA HEALTHCARE

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER, VISIT:

www.ymcasd.org/medi-cal

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!
Free childcare and food at all in-person events, plus interpreter services at both in-person and virtual events.

Ramona Salmonella Outbreak Grows



- The County's investigation of the Salmonella outbreak first linked to mayonnaise produced by a Ramona market has revealed that the product was made with raw eggs supplied by Happy Hens, a poultry farm that distributes eggs.
- Additional cases of the same Salmonella strain unrelated to the market are being investigated.
- The outbreak now totals 21 cases, including seven hospitalizations, up from 13 cases and four hospitalizations when first reported on July 28.
- The County is working closely with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Department of Public Health on the outbreak.
- The County's Department of Environmental Health and Quality has reached out to retail food facilities that may have received eggs from Happy Hens with reminders about proper egg storage, grading requirements and recalls.
- This is not related to the multi-state outbreak in the Midwest that has sickened 98 and led to a recall.
- Anyone who experiences symptoms like diarrhea, fever, or abdominal cramps after eating undercooked eggs, should seek medical advice and report the illness to the County Department of Environmental Health and Quality at (858) 505-6814 or via the online form.

Ramona Salmonella Outbreak Grows | News | San Diego County News Center

San Diego County Confirms First Clade I Mpox Case



- The California Department of Public Health confirmed Wednesday that a San Diego County resident has Clade I mpox.
- County health officials say the patient likely contracted the virus while traveling internationally to an area where Clade I mpox is circulating.
- The County is monitoring all identified contacts, and no one has reported symptoms.
- Risk to the general public remains very low.
- If you develop mpox-like symptoms—such as rash, fever, swollen lymph nodes—especially after travel or potential exposure, contact your healthcare provider.
- The two-dose JYNNEOS vaccine provides the strongest protection against both Clade I and II mpox. It is recommended for people at higher risk, those with potential exposure, and travelers who anticipate close or intimate contact while abroad. The JYNNEOS vaccine is available through healthcare providers and County Sexual Health Clinics.
- San Diego County has reported 27 cases this year, mostly among people who were sexually vaccinated. All cases involve men between 32 and 53 years old.
- For mpox updates, text COSDMPOX to 28256. More information is available on the County's mpox webpage.

San Diego County Confirms First Clade I Mpox Case | News | San Diego County News Center

Fourth Case of Human West Nile Virus Has County Health Officials Urging Caution



- A fourth county resident has tested positive for West Nile virus, prompting County public health officials to urge steps to prevent mosquito bites and drain standing water.
- Four San Diegans have contracted the virus since June, with symptom onset or positive tests occurring between June 8 to July 14, 2026. No local deaths have been reported this year.
- One of the recent cases required several days of hospitalization, another had mild symptoms that did not require hospitalization, and two were detected through blood-donation screening. One of the cases was acquired locally.
- Last year, 34 dead birds and 182 mosquito batches tested positive for West Nile virus. So far in 2026, the virus has been detected in 23 dead birds and 10 mosquito batches. Similar increases are being seen across California and neighboring states.
- To learn about tips to prevent mosquito breeding, protect yourself from bites, report mosquito problems and dead birds, and more, visit the County's "Fight the Bite" website.

Fourth Case of Human West Nile Virus Has County Health Officials Urging Caution | News | San Diego County News Center

County Marks Overdose Awareness Day with Hundreds of Purple Flags



- Hundreds of purple flags lined the lawn at Waterfront Park today to mark the 25th International Overdose Awareness Day.
- The 840 flags each represent a San Diego County resident who died from an overdose in 2025 and serve as a reminder that more work is needed to save more lives.
- There is good news. San Diego County overdose deaths continue a steady decline. Fatalities dropped 11 percent from last year's 945 and are down 18 percent from the 2021 peak of 1,030.
- Naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal medicine, and fentanyl test strips are available to anyone through the County's Harm Reduction Strategy. Residents can find distribution sites using the Interactive Substance Use and Medication Assistance Treatment (SAMT) and Naloxone Resource map. They can also locate safe medication disposal sites through the interactive Prescription Drug Drop Off Location Map.

County Marks Overdose Awareness Day with Hundreds of Purple Flags | News | San Diego County News Center



CAHAN SD
California Health Alert Network San Diego

September 16 | Health Advisory: Increase in Reported Human Rabies Exposures

Key Messages

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued the accompanying health alert reporting increases in national human exposures to rabid or potentially rabid animals and errors in post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) administration.
- In San Diego County there has been an increase in rabies infected bats: as of September 10, 2026, 43 bats have tested positive for rabies, compared to a total of 21 bats in 2025.
- If there is concern for potential rabies exposure, clinicians should conduct a rabies risk assessment and administer rabies PEP based on CDC guidance.

LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

CAHAN SD
California Health Alert Network San Diego

August 10 Health Advisory Update #5: First Confirmed Clade I Mpox Case in San Diego County in Returning Traveler

Key Messages

- On August 5, 2026, the first case of clade I mpox virus (MPXV) infection in San Diego County was confirmed in a resident who had recently traveled to areas of Western Europe where clade I mpox outbreaks have been reported.
- Public health investigation is ongoing, and no additional cases or symptomatic contacts to this case have been identified to date. The overall risk of clade I MPXV to the general population in San Diego County remains low.
- Providers and laboratories should immediately report suspected clade I mpox cases to the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch, which can assist in arranging confirmatory testing for clade I MPXV.
- The two-dose PINNFOS vaccine is recommended to persons who are vulnerable to mpox, including anyone who plans to travel internationally outside of the United States, regardless of destination, and anticipates sexual or intimate contact while traveling. Booster (i.e., third) doses are not currently recommended.

LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

CAHAN SD
California Health Alert Network San Diego

August 10 Health Advisory: Risk of Severe Arboviral Disease in Patients Receiving B Cell-Depleting or Modulating Medications

Key Messages

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a health advisory about the growing number of reports of severe arboviral neuroinvasive disease in patients taking monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) that deplete B cells or modulate B cell function (e.g., rituximab and bioximilars, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab, obinutuzumab, and ibritumomab tiuxetan).
  - Overall mortality was 40%, with most survivors experiencing long term neurologic sequelae, among patients with arboviral neuroinvasive disease taking anti-CD20 mAbs.
- West Nile virus was the most common infecting arbovirus in these cases. Less common or regionally focal viruses in the United States, included eastern equine encephalitis virus, Powassan virus, Jamestown Canyon virus, La Crosse virus, Cache Valley virus, and Potosi virus.
  - WNV activity is exceeding recent years in the county with similar trends throughout the country.
- Patients receiving medications that deplete or reduce B cell function should be advised to use personal protective measures to prevent mosquito and tick bites.

LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

CAHAN SD

California Health Alert Network San Diego

August 18 Health Advisory: Verifying Immunization Records

Key Messages

- • The Public Health Department and local healthcare professionals have observed an increase in suspicious and invalid immunization records in San Diego County.
- According to California Health and Safety Code, Section 120325-120375, children in California are required to receive certain immunizations before attending public or private schools and childcare facilities. Schools and childcare facilities are required to enforce these requirements, maintain records, and submit reports.
- Schools, childcare centers, and healthcare professionals can only accept valid immunization records for transcription into the California Immunization Registry or school/daycare enrollment.
- Guidance is available for local healthcare professionals, schools, and childcare staff on how to verify acceptable records including the accompanying flyer.

LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

CDPH Ending the Syndemic Symposium 2026

- Registration is open for the 5th Annual Ending the Syndemic Symposium
- This free virtual symposium is September 29th-October 1st (12-4 PM)
- Registration flyers are available in both Spanish and English
- Simultaneous Spanish translation will be available at all sessions
- Conference recordings and materials will be made available after the event

DAY 1, Tuesday, September 29th — Theme: Racial Equity
DAY 2, Wednesday, September 30th — Theme: Stigma Free
DAY 3, Thursday, October 1st — Theme: Health Access for All

- For more information, please visit the event website at https://www.meleeweb.co
- To go to the registration page, click or tap the link: Registration Page - Ending the Syndemic Symposium 2026

Thank you all for your work to help end the syndemic of HIV, HCV and other STIs in California.



HCS | CalHOPE

California Child and Adolescent Mental Health Access Portal (Cal-MAP)

What is Cal-MAP?

- Cal-MAP is a CalHOPE pediatric mental health care access program designed to increase timely access to mental health care for youth throughout California's communities, especially in the state's most underserved and rural areas.



What does Cal-MAP Offer?

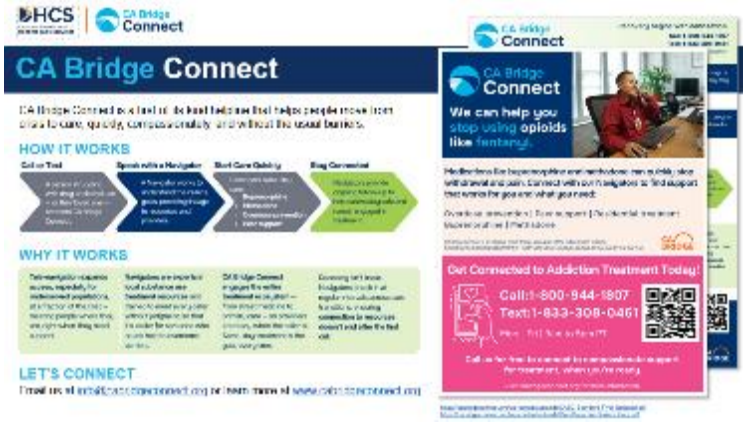
- The Cal-MAP program offers:
  - **Consultation**: Real-time guidance and coaching
  - **Training**: Project ECHO "All Teach All Learn"
  - **Resources**: For PCPs and families with topic and diagnosis specific information

How does Cal-MAP work?

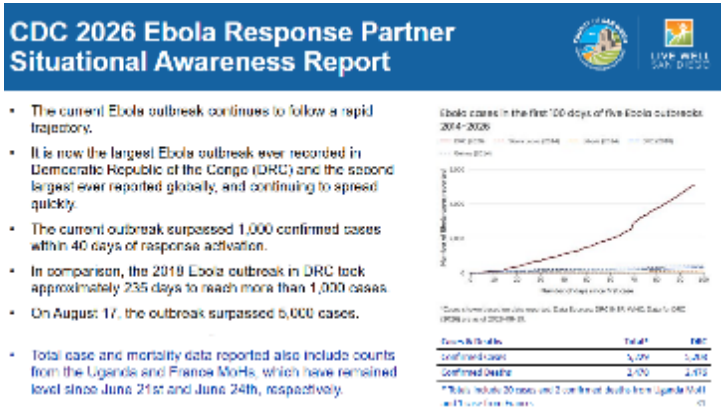
- Cal-MAP is a statewide behavioral health eConsult service that provides pediatricians, primary care physicians and other practitioners (e.g., school-based service providers) access to consultation support from licensed behavioral health professionals, including psychiatrists.

Learn More

- To learn more about the Cal-MAP program, visit www.calmap.org
- If you have any questions, please email CYBHI@dhcs.ca.gov


DHCS
CA Bridge Connect
CA Bridge Connect
HOW IT WORKS
WHY IT WORKS
LET'S CONNECT
We can help you stop using opioids like fentanyl.
Get Connected to Addiction Treatment Today!
Call:1-800-944-1807
Text:1-833-308-0461


CDPH
Transforming Behavioral Health
CDPH BHSA Population-Based Prevention Community-Defined Evidence Practices (CDEPs) RFA Now Live!
ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
RFA DETAILS
Learn More About CDEP RFA


CDC 2026 Ebola Response Partner Situational Awareness Report
The current Ebola outbreak continues to follow a rapid trajectory.
It is now the largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the second largest ever reported globally, and continuing to spread quickly.
The current outbreak surpassed 1,000 confirmed cases within 40 days of response activation.
In comparison, the 2019 Ebola outbreak in DRC took approximately 235 days to reach more than 1,000 cases.
On August 17, the outbreak surpassed 5,000 cases.
Total case and mortality data reported also include counts from the Uganda and France MoHs, which have remained level since June 21st and June 24th, respectively.

HEDIS® MY 2027: What's New, What's Changed, What's Retired

August 3, 2026

New HEDIS Measures Highlight

Prenatal Syphilis Screening (PSY-E). The percentage of deliveries that had a syphilis screening during the first trimester or within 14 days of the first pregnancy diagnosis or prenatal visit or within 30 days of enrollment in the organization.

Intent: Prenatal syphilis screening helps identify and treat infection early in pregnancy, reducing the risk of congenital syphilis in newborns.

- The USPSTF recommends screening pregnant individuals for syphilis early in pregnancy or at the first prenatal visit.
- **Clinical rationale.** Untreated syphilis acquired before or during pregnancy can lead to congenital syphilis, with a transmission frequency of up to 90%. (1)
- **Public health trend.** Syphilis rates in pregnancy have risen sharply. In 2024, 3,941 infants were born with congenital syphilis—a nearly 2000% increase from 2015, when 195 cases were reported. (2)

HEDIS® MY 2027: What's New, What's Changed, What's Retired | NCQA

Accidental Ingestions of Recreational Drugs Among Children

Rate Of Accidental Ingestions Of Recreational Drugs Among Children Younger Than Six Increased By More Than 3,300% Between 2000 And 2024

Data from National Poison Data System showed that from 2000 to 2024:

- Rate of weed ingestions increased by 2,349% from 2015 to 2024
- Ingestion rates for other substances:
  - 6% for stimulants
  - 4% for psychedelics
  - 3% for opioids
- Children under 2 years represented almost half of all ingestions (2-year-olds, 28% and 1-year-olds, 23%)
- Children under 3 years were 54% more likely to experience major side effects from ingestion
- Most of the ingestions involved a single substance (96%) and occurred in a home (96%)

Accidental ingestion of recreational drugs among young children, 2000–2024 | SDC Public Health | Springer Nature Link

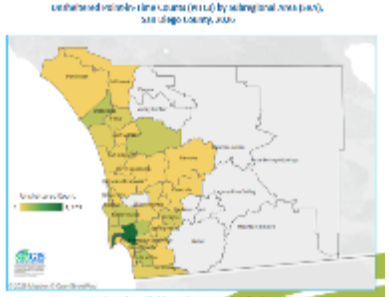
Persons Experiencing Homelessness in San Diego County

SANDIEGOCOUNTY.GOV/HHSA

Point-In-Time Count

9,803	5,108	4,695
Total Persons Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) in 2026	PEH were Unsheltered in 2026	PEH were sheltered in 2026

- In 2026, 9,803 persons were experiencing homelessness in San Diego County.
  - Among those, 52.1% were unsheltered, and 47.9% were sheltered.
- San Diego continues to rank among the top counties in California and the U.S. for total persons experiencing homelessness.



Geography

- Notably, Central San Diego SRA had the highest unsheltered count (~1,770 in 2026).

Medical Encounters

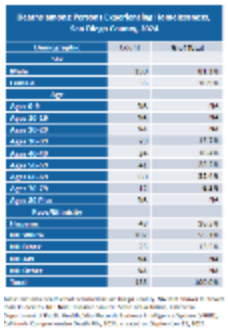
Emergency Department Discharges (2024)

- In 2024, 13,760 persons experiencing homelessness were discharged from the Emergency Department (ED) in San Diego County. There was a total of 41,537 ED discharges of persons experiencing homelessness in 2024, indicating an average of about 3.0 visits per person experiencing homelessness.
- Most common diagnoses: skin infections, alcohol-related disorders, musculoskeletal pain.
- The majority of PEH were insured via Medi-Cal and were discharged to home or self-care (routine discharge).
- Highest volume ED Zip code: 92103

Hospital Discharges (2024)

- In 2024, 6,589 persons experiencing homelessness were discharged from a hospital in San Diego County. There was a total of 11,711 hospital discharges of persons experiencing homelessness in 2024, indicating an average of 1.8 visits per person experiencing homelessness.
- Most common diagnoses: septicemia, skin infections, heart failure.
- The majority of PEH were insured via Medi-Cal and discharged to home/self-care or skilled nursing facilities.
- Highest volume hospitalization zip code: 92103

Mortality



Demographics (2024)

- Most deaths were among:
  - Males (81%),
  - Individuals aged 50–69 (59%),
  - and Non-Hispanic White individuals (55%).

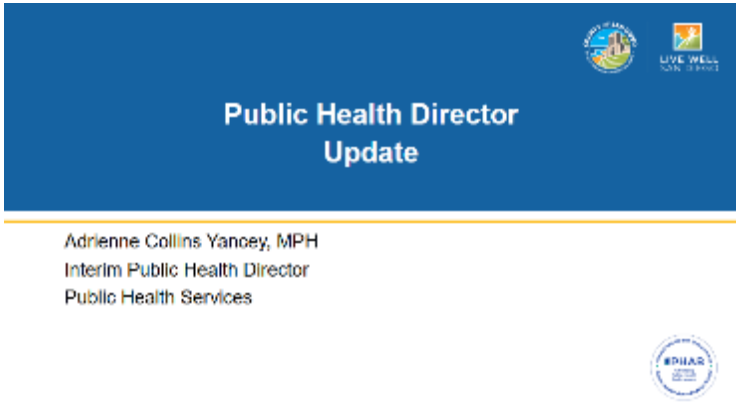
Leading Causes of Death (2024)

- The top three leading causes of death among persons experiencing homelessness in San Diego County in 2024 were:
  1. accidents/unintentional injuries,
  2. heart disease,
  3. and cancer.





Public Health Director Update
Adrienne Yancey, Interim Director, PHS



Public Health Services

BOARD LETTER FORECAST

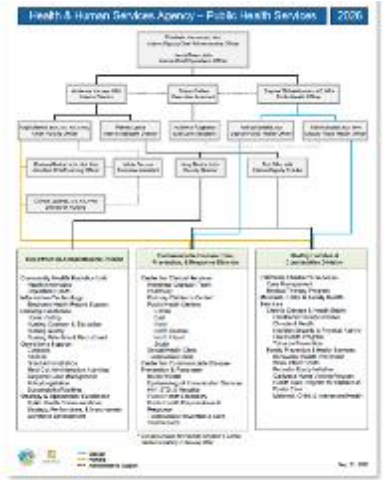
Board Meeting Date	Subject
September 15, 2026	Authorize Certification Statements for California Children's Services Programs
September 15, 2026	Authorize Acceptance of California Department of Transportation Funding for Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Award
December 2026	This is a report back to the Board of Supervisors with a progress report on the emergency food distribution service specific to households impacted by LRL 1 in 6 months and in 1 year.

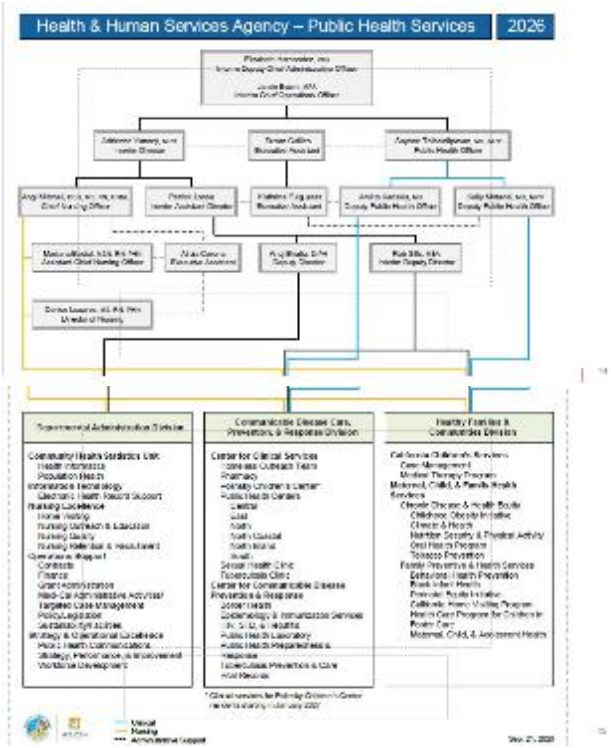
Interim Chief Operating Officer Appointed in HHSA

- **Jamie Beam will serve as Health and Human Services Agency's (HHSA) interim chief operations officer. Beam steps into this role following Jennifer Bransford-Koons, who is providing leadership support in Behavioral Health Services ahead of her retirement next month.**
- Beam has been with the County for more than 25 years. She most recently served as the Director of Regional Operations for Clinical and Safety Net Coordination and has led several Board initiatives aimed at improving health outcomes across our region. Beam has extensive experience in program design, budgeting and contracting.
- Beam has a Master of Public Administration from San Diego State University and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego.
- She has distinguished herself as a leader who consistently transforms complex visions into practical systems and solutions that expand access and advance equity in health and social care.



NEW
PHS
ORG
CHART




Health & Human Services Agency – Public Health Services
2026


Highlights: PHLab and MCFHS
DR. HALLIS CAREER MILESTONE
Over the past couple of years, Dr. Hallis has shown incredible dedication and perseverance in her journey to become a fully qualified Laboratory Director in California.
Recently, she completed the LabAspire program, which played a pivotal role in preparing her for this remarkable achievement.
Following her completion of the program, Dr. Hallis reached out to Laboratory Field Services (LFS) for a thorough assessment of her credentials, and I am delighted to share that we received confirmation of her qualification as a fully qualified Laboratory Director. Congratulations Dr. Hallis!
LINDA CARILLO SELECTED FOR CITYLEADERS PROGRAM
Congratulations to Linda for her selection into the prestigious CityLeaders Program through CityMatCH! Out of a competitive national pool of urban maternal and child health applications, Linda was one of only a few selected.

Highlight: UC San Diego and San Diego County Team Up to Track the Risk

- To help local officials stay ahead of the New World screwworm threat, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Public Health Services and University of California San Diego researchers developed a tool to help track the screwworm, a parasitic fly whose larvae feed on living tissue.



- **Shoutout to Drs. Shah and Beatty for being featured** in the following articles:
  - As New World Screwworm Returns to the U.S., UC San Diego and San Diego County Team Up to Track the Risk - Qualcomm Institute
  - As New World Screwworm Returns to the U.S., UC San Diego and San Diego County Team Up to Track Risks

Love Your Heart 2026
Partner Recognition Virtual Event

On August 11, 2026, the County of San Diego celebrated the success of Love Your Heart with over 60 community partners coming together for heart health month, providing more than 79,000 blood pressure screenings at 504 sites across the U.S. and Mexico!

LOVE YOUR HEART





	 **Thank you!**  **Question and Answer:** **Dr. Hariett Seldin:** For the El Nino Preparation, what's the city responsibility? What's the county responsibility? **Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan:** This slide is specific to our Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch, part of our Public Health Services, but the county overall, has several different roles. One is that we are kind of like the city managers of the unincorporated over the county. Whether it's higher resource areas or more rural, lower resource areas, we have a role in terms of maintaining public roads, clearing the stormwater drains, offering sandbags, things like that, and addressing complaints and infrastructure-related issues, because we have the Public Works Departments. Every city has its own public works department. And then we have County Fire, CAL FIRE. When there's any disaster in the County, our Office of Emergency Services is involved at some level. If it's localized to one jurisdiction, traditionally, they are monitoring and then offering support where needed. Sometimes there's mutual aid but then once it crosses multiple jurisdictions, depending on what the disaster may be, or what the event and the incident may be, there may be a role for us to get more directly involved.
VI. ROUNDTABLE	The Monthly Community Health & Resource Fair takes place on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, from 10:00 AM at the Jackie Robinson Family YMCA in San Diego San Diego State University School of Public Health participated in the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) surveys alongside the County of San Diego and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC said really great things about many students.
VII. PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
VIII. ADJOURN	Meeting adjourned at 4:33 PM.
Next Meeting	**HSAB Monthly Meeting:** Tuesday, October 13, 2026 **CAC:** 1600 Pacific Hwy San Diego, CA 92101, Room 302, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm