Health Services Advisory Board Meeting
Public Health Services Report

September 22, 2026

Public Health Officer Update

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

Respiratory Virus Surveillance

Highlights

San Diego County

Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report

Prepared by Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch

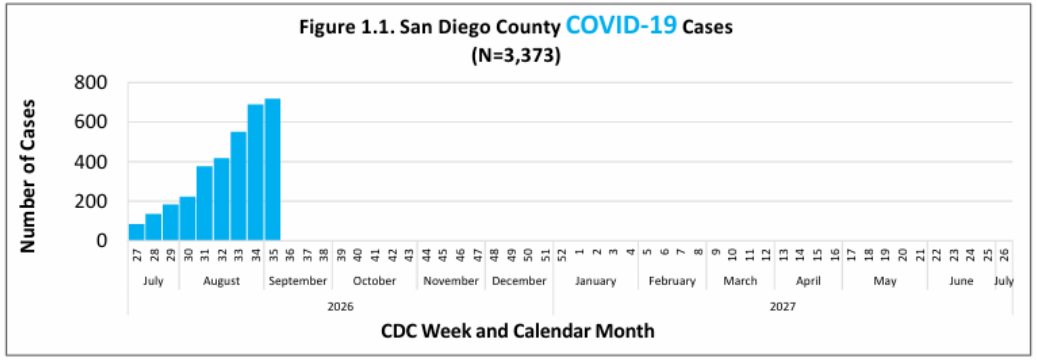
www.sdepi.org

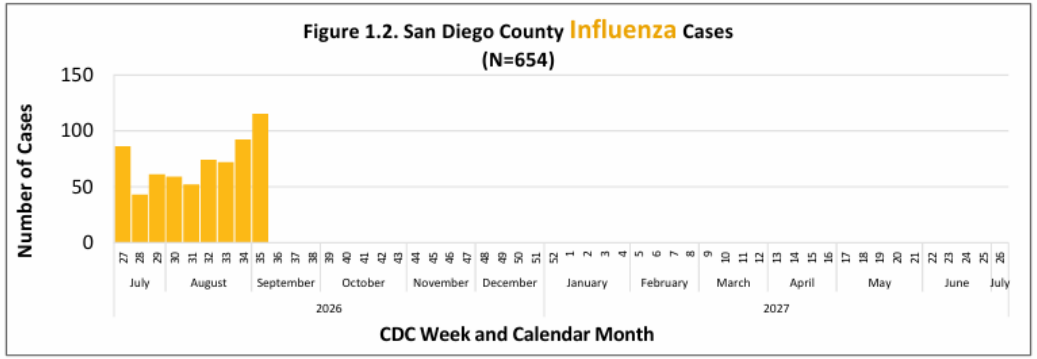
This report will be issued monthly on the second Thursday of the month.
Weekly reporting will resume in October.

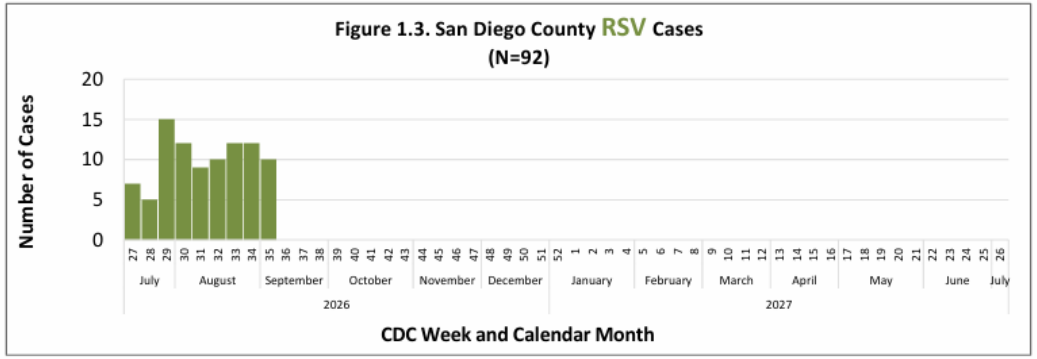
COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
Hospitalizations 506	Hospitalizations 75	Hospitalizations 24
Deaths 10	Deaths 2	Deaths 1
Outbreaks* 28	Outbreaks* 0	Outbreaks* 0
7/5/2026 – 9/5/2026	*7/5/2026 – 9/5/2026*	*7/5/2026 – 9/5/2026*

*In residential congregate settings

COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV Cases by CDC Episode Week,* 2026-27 Season-to-Date







*Episode date is the earliest available of symptom onset date, specimen collection date, date of death, date reported. Data for the most recent week may be incomplete.

Updated September 10, 2026. Data through September 5, 2026. Data are preliminary and subject to change.
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/respiratoryviruses/surveillance.html
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/SDC_Respiratory_Virus_Surveillance_Report.pdf

Wastewater Dashboard

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

	Target	Last detected	Encina	Point Loma	South Bay
SDPHL	SARS-CoV-2	-	↑	↗	↘
	Influenza A	-	→	→	→
	Influenza B	-	↑	↘	→
	RSV	-	↑	↑	→
WastewaterSCAN	Norovirus	-		→	
	Rotavirus	-		↘	
	EVD68	-		↑	
	H5 Influenza	2/17/2025		○	
	Hepatitis A	6/1/2026		○	
	HMPV	-		○	
	MPOX Clade II	8/19/2024		○	
	MPOX Clade IB	Never Detected		○	
	Measles	Never Detected		○	
	WNV	Never Detected		○	

Current Level: Low, Moderate, High, Very High, Not calculated

Current Trend: Sporadic detecti.., Decrease, Plateau, Increase, Strong Increase, Not calculated

Last Update: 9/17/2026 10:47:34 PM

[Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard]

(Data sent weekly)

CDPH California Department of Public Health

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[1] • All who choose to reduce risk of severe illness	• All 6 months and older[2]	• All younger than 8 months[3] • 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[3, 4]
Adults	• All 65 years and older • All 19–64 years with risk factors • All who are in close contact with others with risk factors[1] • 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 and older.
2. Two doses given at least 4 weeks apart are recommended for ages 6 months–8 years who are getting flu vaccine for the first time.
3. Protect infants with either prenatal RSV vaccine or infant dose of nirsevimab or clesrovimab.
4. RSV vaccination during pregnancy or for adults is currently recommended once rather than annually.

Consensus WCHA 2026-27 Respiratory Virus Season Immunization Recommendations

HEALTH

County Confirms Mumps Outbreak at San Diego State University

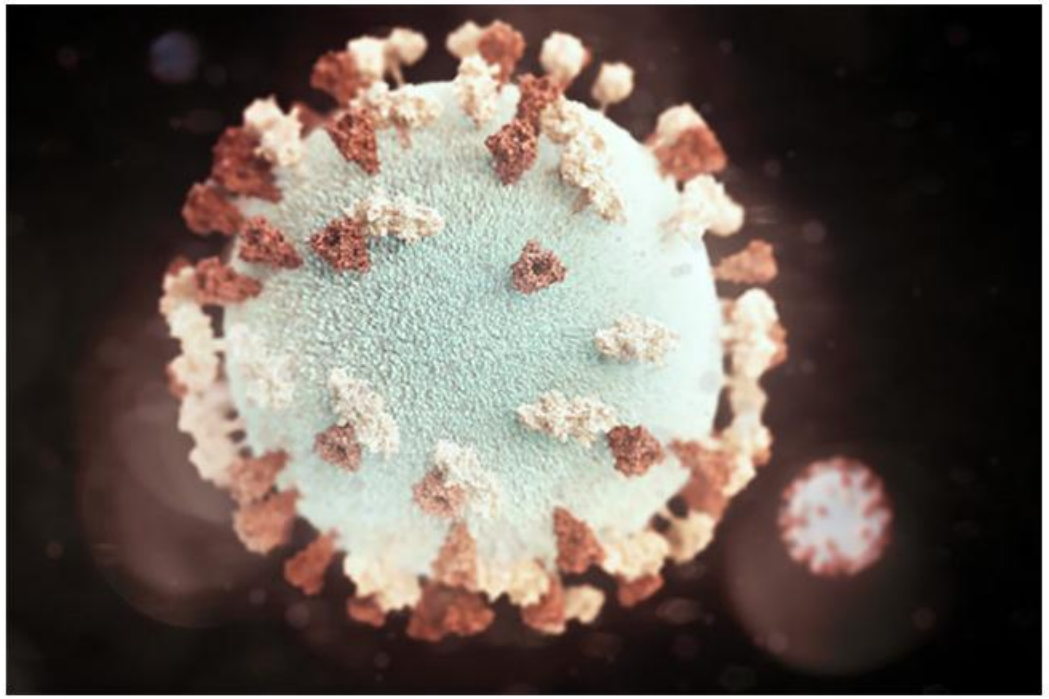


Image Credit: CDC

By Cassie N. Saunders, County of San Diego Communications Office

Sep. 18, 2026 | 4:02 PM

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 2020 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 Outbreak & Information | Student Affairs and Campus Diversity | SDSU.

CAHAN SD

California Health Alert Network San Diego

September 18 | Health Advisory: Mumps Outbreak on a University Campus in San Diego

Key Messages

- As of September 18, 2026, there are 5 epidemiologically linked cases of mumps (3 confirmed, 2 probable) in San Diego State University (SDSU) students.
- An ongoing outbreak investigation is underway to limit the further spread of mumps.
- Health care providers should provide a third MMR dose to any SDSU student who requests vaccination and who have completed the two-dose series.
- Mumps should be considered when individuals present with parotitis, other salivary gland swelling, acute orchitis or oophoritis, aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, sudden hearing loss, and pancreatitis, even when patients have been fully vaccinated.
- Providers are requested to promptly report any suspected mumps case to the County of San Diego Immunization Unit by calling 866-358-2966 press 5 at the prompt (after hours call 858-565-5255).

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY | LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

HEALTH

Second CDC Health Survey Underway in South Bay



Video by Andy Tolley

By Anita Lightfoot, County of San Diego Communications Office
Sep. 17, 2026 | 3:12 PM

Second CDC Health Survey Underway in South Bay | News | San Diego County News Center

- 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.

HEALTH

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



By Tammy Glenn, County of San Diego Communications Office
Sep. 17, 2026 | 6:05 AM

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

- 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, 2026, 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.

HEALTH

County Public Health Leaders Stress Fall Vaccinations to Prevent Severe Illness



Image Credit: Shutterstock

By Cassie N. Saunders, County of San Diego Communications Office

Sep. 11, 2026 | 3:32 PM

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

- 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 is 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.

HEALTH

National Increase in Reported Human Rabies Exposures



By Cassie N. Saunders, County of San Diego Communications Office

Sep. 11, 2026 | 12:19 PM

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

- 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.

HEALTH

County Reaffirms Current Childhood Vaccine Schedule



By Cassie N. Saunders, County of San Diego Communications Office
Aug. 18, 2026 | 1:21 PM

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.

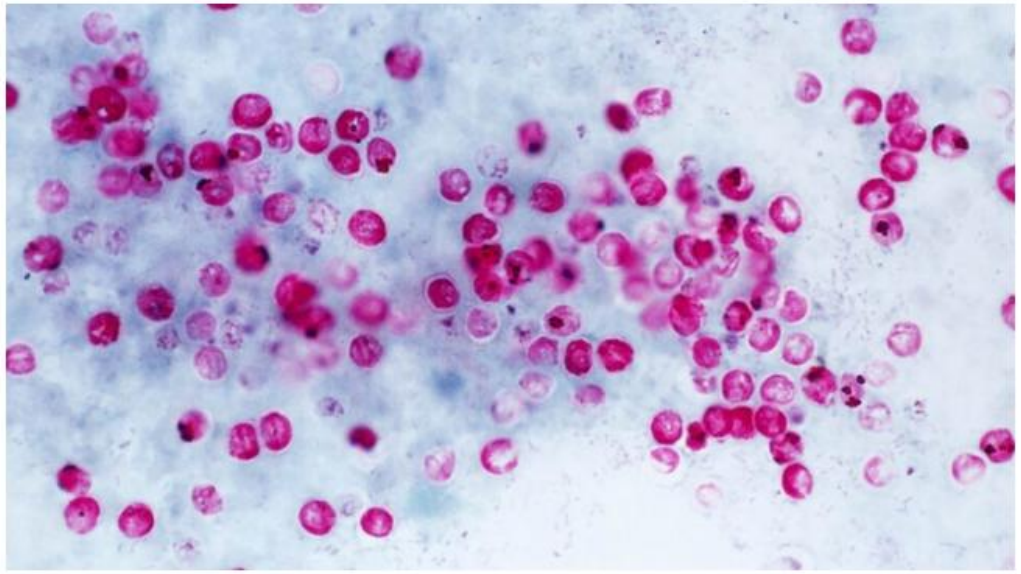
Lessons Learned & Improvement:

- 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.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY | LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

HEALTH

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



By Anita Lightfoot, County of San Diego Communications Office
Sep. 4, 2026 | 6:27 PM

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) 505-6900 or e-mail fhdutyeh@sdcounty.ca.gov or call the Gaylord Pacific Resort.

HEALTH

New Tool Makes Applying for Benefits Faster and Easier



By Cassie N. Saunders, County of San Diego Communications Office
Aug. 20, 2026 | 2:19 PM

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

- A new BenefitsCal feature called Truv 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 Truv Works

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

Why It Matters

- Using Truv 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.

YMCA OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
COMMUNITY WELL-BEING & BELONGING

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:** Border View Family YMCA, San Ysidro (English and Spanish)
- **Oct 10 | 11am–1pm:** Copley-Price Family YMCA, City Heights (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, and Somali)
- **Nov 7 | 11am–1pm:** Ronald Reagan Community Center, El Cajon (English, Spanish, Arabic, Farsi, and Pashto)
- **Dec 9 | 6pm–7pm:** Virtual Session, Zoom link provided (English and Spanish)
- **Jan 9 | 11am–1pm:** Jackie Robinson Family YMCA, Southeast San Diego (English and Spanish)
- **Jan 30 | 11am–1pm:** Escondido YMCA, Escondido (English and Spanish)

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER, VISIT:

www.ymcasd.org/medi-cal

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

blue CALIFORNIA PROMISE

Community Health Group

KAISER PERMANENTE

MOLINA HEALTHCARE

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Free childcare and **food** at all in-person events, plus **interpreter services** at both in-person and virtual events.

HEALTH

Ramona Salmonella Outbreak Grows



Courtesy: CDC

By Cassie N. Saunders, County of San Diego Communications Office

Aug. 17, 2026 | 12:06 PM

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

- 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 resales.
- 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.

HEALTH

San Diego County Confirms First Clade I Mpox Case



By Cassie N. Saunders, County of San Diego Communications Office
Aug. 10, 2026 | 8:30 AM

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

- 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 not fully vaccinated. All cases involve men between 17 and 53-years-old.
- For mpox updates, text COSD MPOX to 98256. More information is available on the County's mpox webpage.

HEALTH

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



By Cassie N. Saunders, County of San Diego Communications Office
Aug. 4, 2026 | 2:07 PM

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

- 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 5 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.

HEALTH

County Marks Overdose Awareness Day with Hundreds of Purple Flags



Video by Alex Aguirre

By Anita Lightfoot, County of San Diego Communications Office
Aug. 31, 2026 | 5:01 PM

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

- 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 36 percent from the 2021 peak of 1,309.
- 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 (MAT) and Naloxone Resource map. They can also locate safe medication disposal sites through the interactive Prescription Drug Drop-Off Locator Map.

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.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY | 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 JYNNEOS 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.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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 biosimilars, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab, ublituximab, 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.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY | 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.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

Ending the Syndemic Symposium 2026

- Registration is open for the 5th Annual Ending the Syndemic Symposium
- The 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.

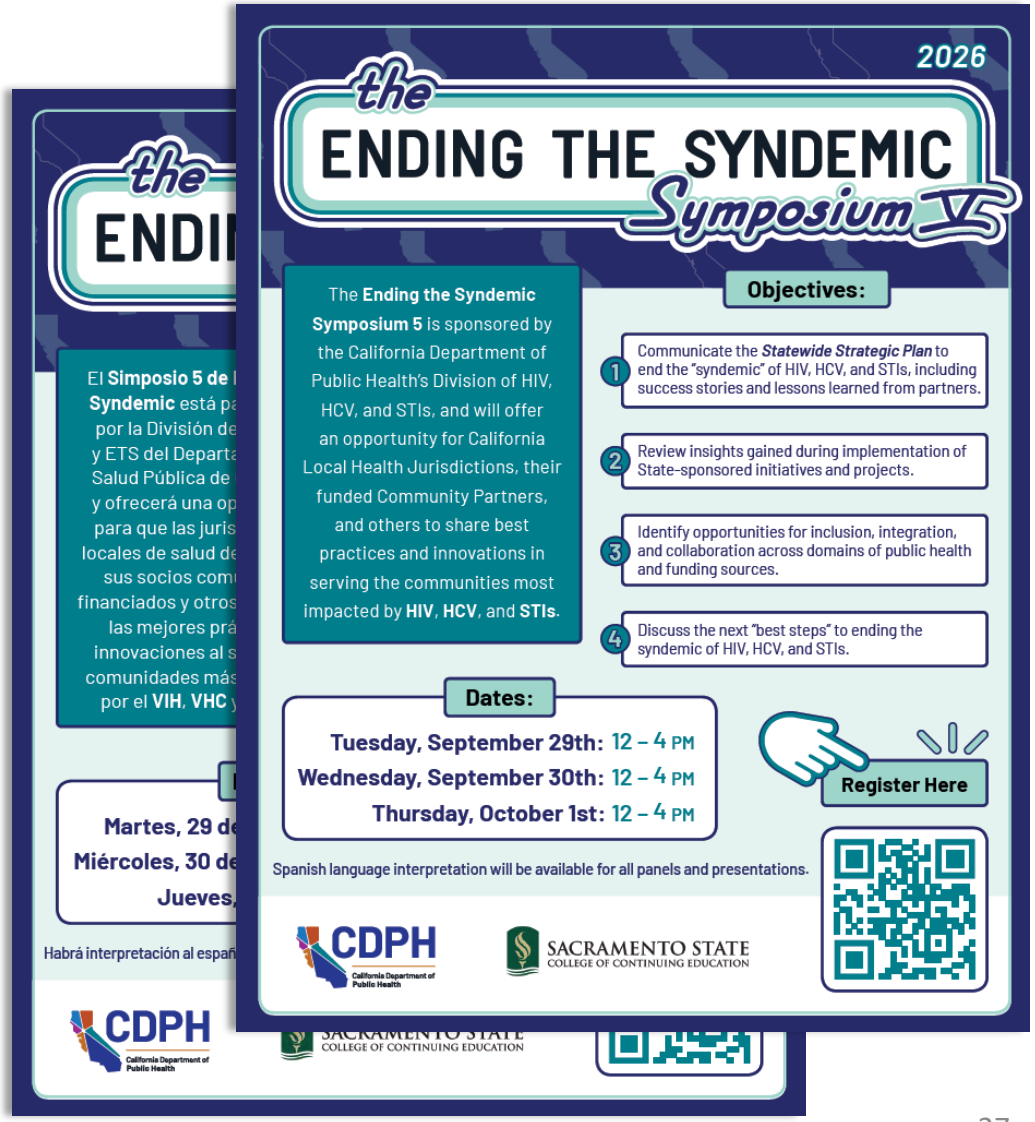
DAY 1, Tuesday, September 29th **Theme: Racial Equity**

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: https://cvent.me/kwgxKQ
- To go to the registration page directly follow this 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!



DHCS CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES | 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 topics 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.cal-map.org.
- If you have any questions, please email CYBHI@dhcs.ca.gov.

DHCS CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES | CA Bridge Connect

CA Bridge Connect

CA Bridge Connect is a first-of-its-kind helpline that helps people move from crisis to care, quickly, compassionately, and without the usual barriers.

HOW IT WORKS

Call or Text
A person struggling with drug or alcohol use – or their loved one – contacts CA Bridge Connect.

Speak with a Navigator
A Navigator works to understand the caller's goals, providing linkage to resources and providers.

Start Care Quickly
Caller gets same-day care:
- **Buprenorphine**
- **Methadone**
- **Overdose prevention**
- **Peer support**

Stay Connected
Navigators provide ongoing follow-up to help callers stay safe and remain engaged in treatment.

WHY IT WORKS

Tele-navigation expands access, especially for underserved populations, at a fraction of the cost – meeting people where they are, right when they need support.

Navigators are experts in local substance use treatment resources and trained to meet every caller without judgment, so that it's easier for someone who needs help to overcome barriers.

CA Bridge Connect engages the entire treatment ecosystem – from street medicine to primary care – so providers are ready when the caller is. Same-day treatment is the goal, every time.

Recovery isn't linear. Navigators check in at regular intervals across care transitions, ensuring **connection to resources doesn't end after the first call.**

LET'S CONNECT

Email us at info@cabridgeconnect.org or learn more at www.cabridgeconnect.org.



https://cabridgeconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/CABC-Standard-Flyer-Updated.pdf
https://cabridgeconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/One-Pager-for-Stakeholders.pdf

Transforming Behavioral Health



CDPH BHSA Population-Based Prevention Community-Defined Evidence Practices (CDEPs) RFA Now Live!

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), in partnership with the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS), is pleased to announce that the Request for Applications (RFA) is officially LIVE for the BHSA funded Community-Driven Behavioral Health Initiative (CDBHI).

ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- This CDPH funded initiative is designed to support culturally rooted, community-driven and community informed behavioral health prevention strategies and solutions.
- Funded projects will focus on promoting wellness before behavioral health conditions develop and reducing the stigma associated with seeking help.

INFORMATIONAL RFA WEBINAR - OCTOBER 6, 1:00 - 3:00PM (PST)

- Join an information session (Zoom) on the funding for CDBHI.

RFA DETAILS

- Total funding pool: $30 Million
- Individual grant awards: $400K to $1M
- Grant duration: 27 Months
- Eligible applicants: Nonprofit 501(c)(3) community-based organizations and Tribal entities
- Application deadline: November 6, 2026, by 5 PM (PST)

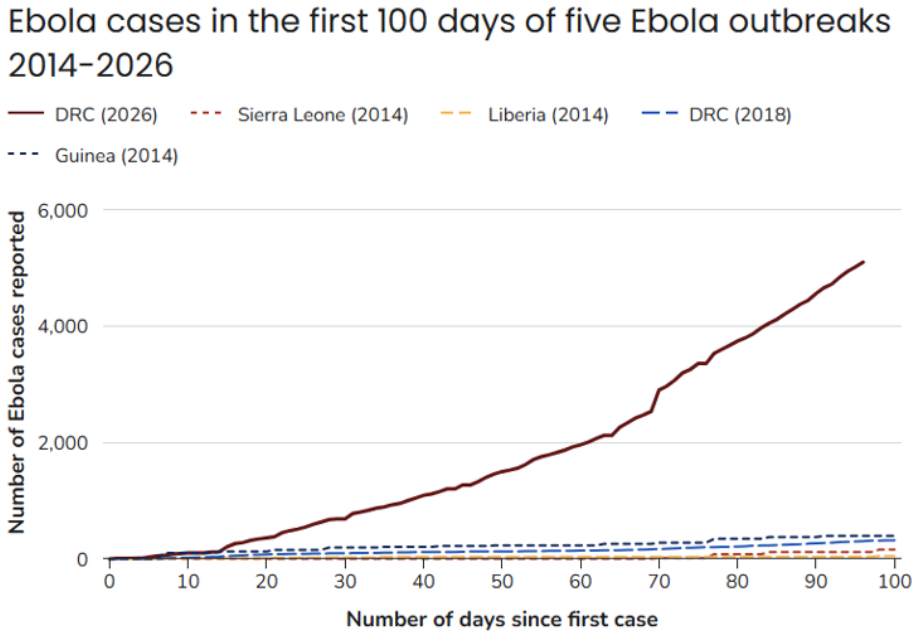
Learn More About CDEP RFA

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 2018 Ebola outbreak in DRC took approximately 235 days to reach more than 1,000 cases.
- On August 17, the outbreak surpassed 5,000 cases.

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- 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.



*Cases shown based on date reported. Data Sources: DRC INSP, WHO. Data for DRC (2026) are as of 2026-08-19.

Cases & Deaths	Total*	DRC
Confirmed Cases	5,229	5,208
Confirmed Deaths	2,478	2,476

* Totals include 20 cases and 2 confirmed deaths from Uganda MoH and 1 case from France.

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 700% increase from 2015, when 495 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:
  - 8% for stimulants
  - 4% for psychedelics
  - 3% for opioids
- Children under 2 years represented almost half of all ingestions (2-year-olds, 26% 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%)

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

Persons Experiencing Homelessness in San Diego County

SANDIEGOCOUNTY.GOV/HHSA

Point-in-Time Count

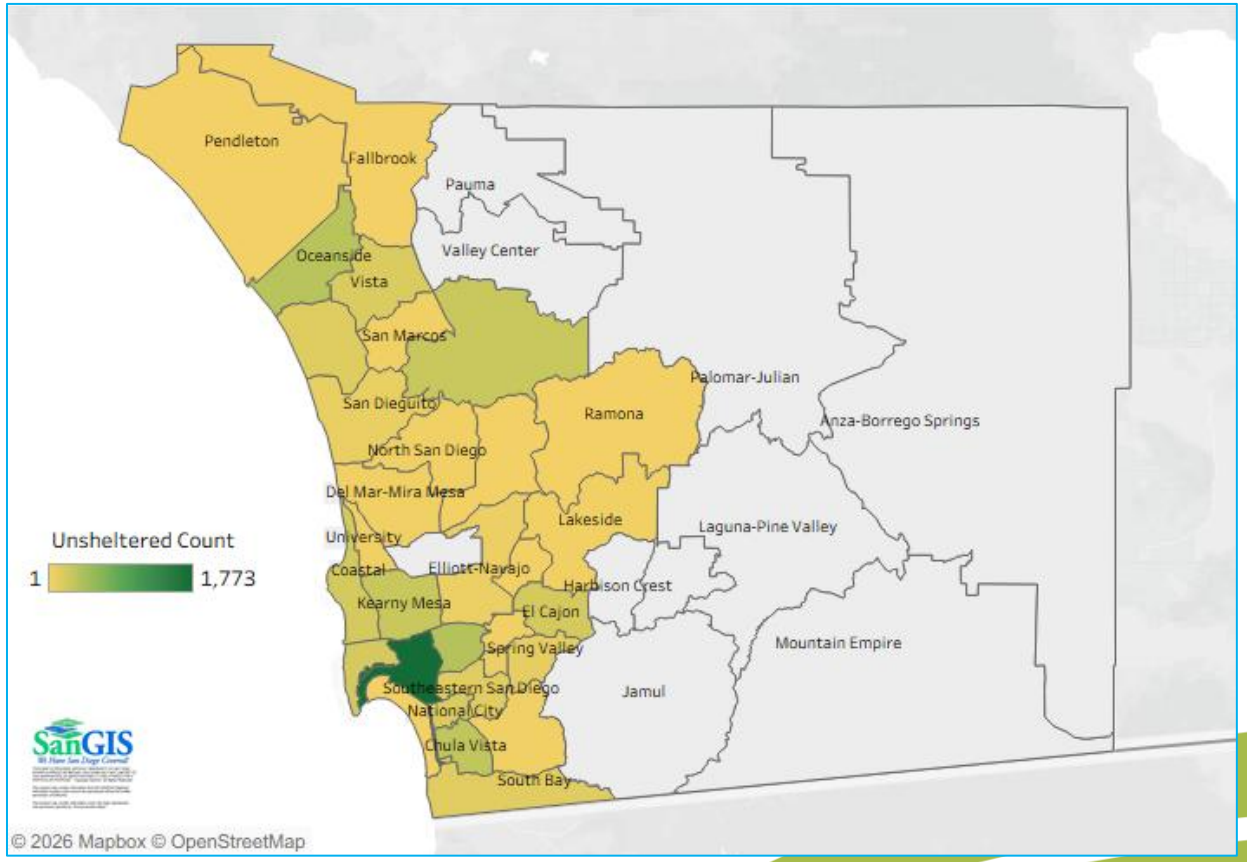
9,803	5,108	4,695
Total Persons Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) in 2026	PEH were unsheltered in 2026	PEH were sheltered in 2026

- 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).

Unsheltered Point-in-Time Counts (PITCs) by Subregional Area (SRA), San Diego County, 2026



Source: Regional Task Force on Homelessness, Point-in-Time Count, 2026.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

Medical Encounters

Emergency Department Discharges (2024)

- In 2024, 13,765 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, 6,389 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

Deaths among Persons Experiencing Homelessness, San Diego County, 2024		
Demographic	Count	% of Total
Sex		
Male	150	81.1%
Female	35	18.9%
Age		
Ages 0-9	NA	NA
Ages 10-19	NA	NA
Ages 20-29	NA	NA
Ages 30-39	29	15.7%
Ages 40-49	34	18.4%
Ages 50-59	41	22.2%
Ages 60-69	60	32.4%
Ages 70-79	12	6.5%
Ages 80 Plus	NA	NA
Race/Ethnicity		
Hispanic	49	26.5%
NH White	102	55.1%
NH Black	25	13.5%
NH API	NA	NA
NH Other	NA	NA
Total	185	100.0%

Table contains deaths that occurred in San Diego County. NA: Not shown for fewer than 11 deaths. NH: Non-Hispanic. Source: State of California, California Department of Public Health, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), California Comprehensive Death File, 2024, created on September 15, 2025.

Demographics (2024)

- Most deaths were among:
  - Males (81%),
  - Individuals aged 50–69 (55%),
  - 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:

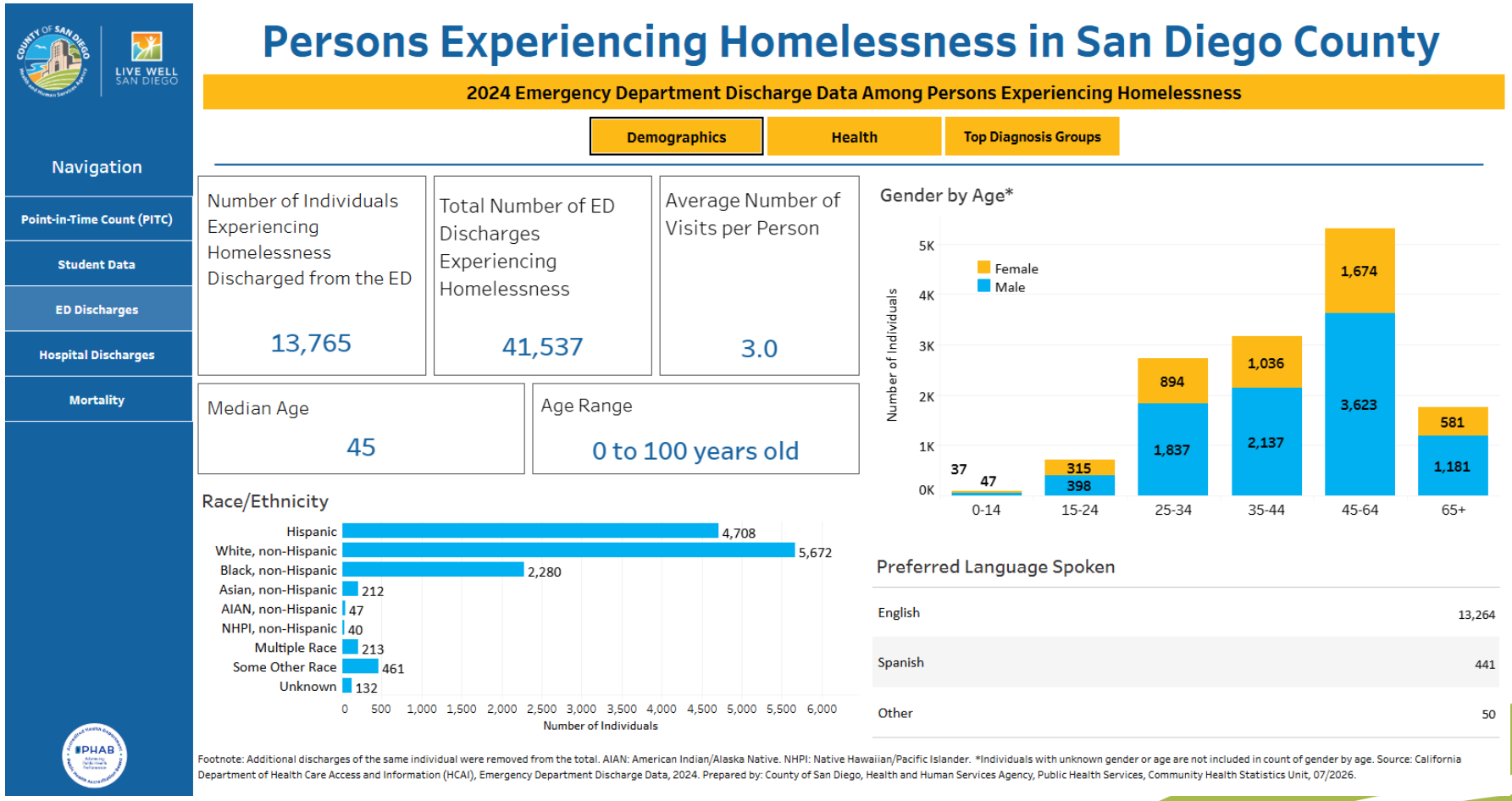
  (1) accidents/unintentional injuries,

  (2) heart diseases,

  (3) and cancer.

Persons Experiencing Homelessness Dashboard

Visit the Persons Experiencing Homelessness Dashboard for additional data on the PEH population in San Diego County.



[Persons Experiencing Homelessness in San Diego County, 2024-2026 | Tableau Public]

New Federal Advancement for Community Living (ACL) Approves Evidence-Based Programs for Title III-D

FEELING FIT CLUB is a functional fitness program for older adults developed by San Diego County's Aging & Independence Services and SDSU exercise scientists. The program aims to improve strength, balance, endurance, and flexibility while fostering social connection.

- Classes meet 2–3 times weekly and include adaptable exercises for various abilities, done seated or standing.
- A 2016 study in the Journal of Applied Gerontology showed significant fitness gains among participants. Since then, the program has expanded using DVDs, guides, and instructor trainings to support new sites and coordinators.

Target Audience: Older adults of all abilities

Health Outcomes: Improved physical function, improved exercise self-efficacy, and maintained ability to complete activities of daily living

Delivered By: 1 Certified Fitness Instructor

Training: 18 hours total: 2 hour on-demand webinar and 2 full day in-person training sessions.

Format: In-Person at Home, In-Person in Community, Remote (Virtual Programming/In-home)

Length: Weekly for one hour, two or three times per week on an ongoing basis.

Topic(s): Physical Activity and falls prevention

Contact: HealthierLiving.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov

Additional resources: Learn more about Feeling Fit Club

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ais/health_promotions.html

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

Public Health Director Update

Adrienne Collins Yancey, MPH

Interim Public Health Director

Public Health Services

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 events specific to households impacted by H.R. 1 in 6 months and in 1 year.

Confidential: Subject to the deliberative process.

Interim Chief Operating Officer Appointed in HHSA

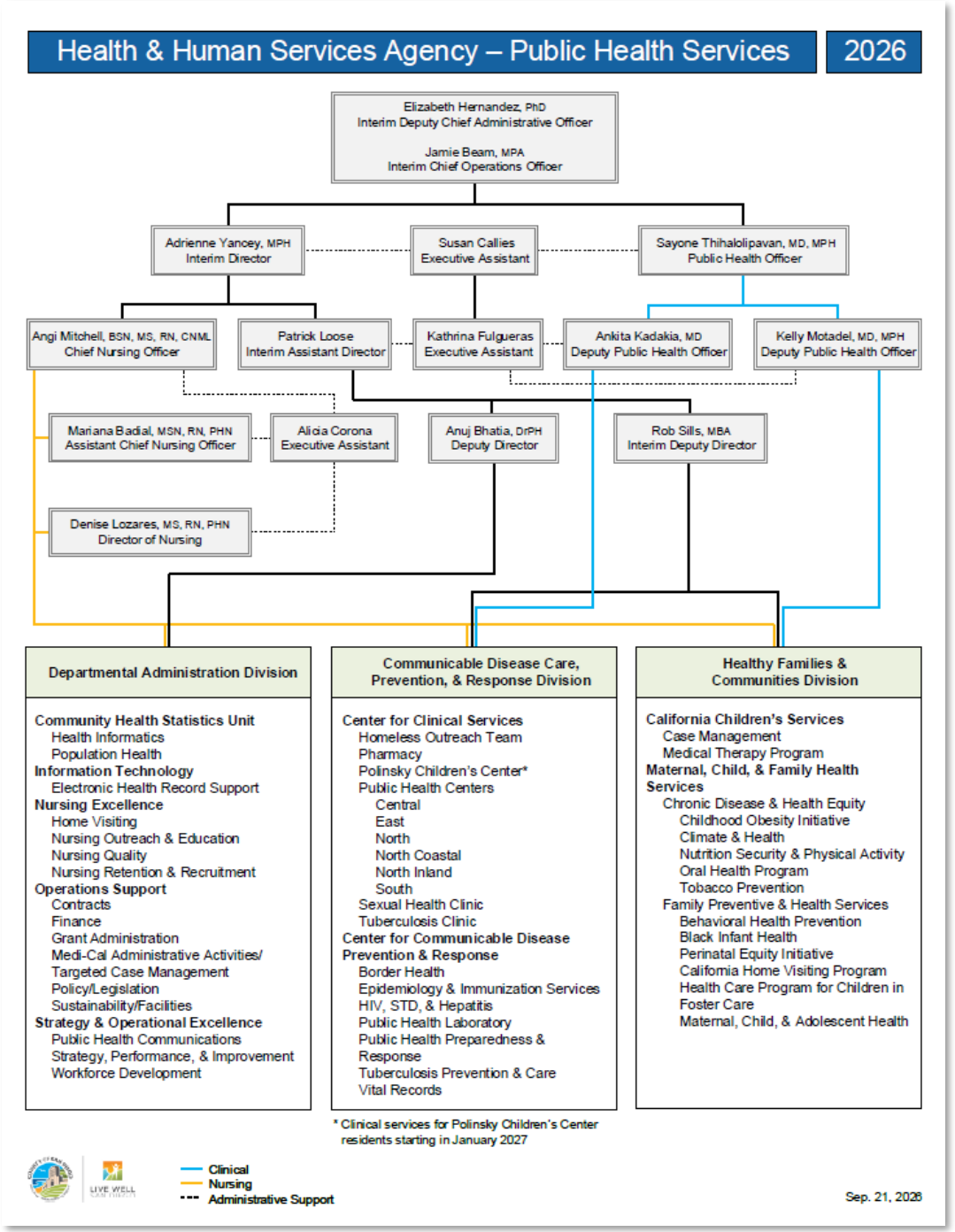
- **Jamie Beam will serve as Health and Human Services Agency's (HHSA) interim chief operations officer. Beam steps into this role following Jennifer Bransford-Koons, who is providing leadership support in Behavioral Health Services ahead of her retirement next month.**
- Beam has been with the County 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.



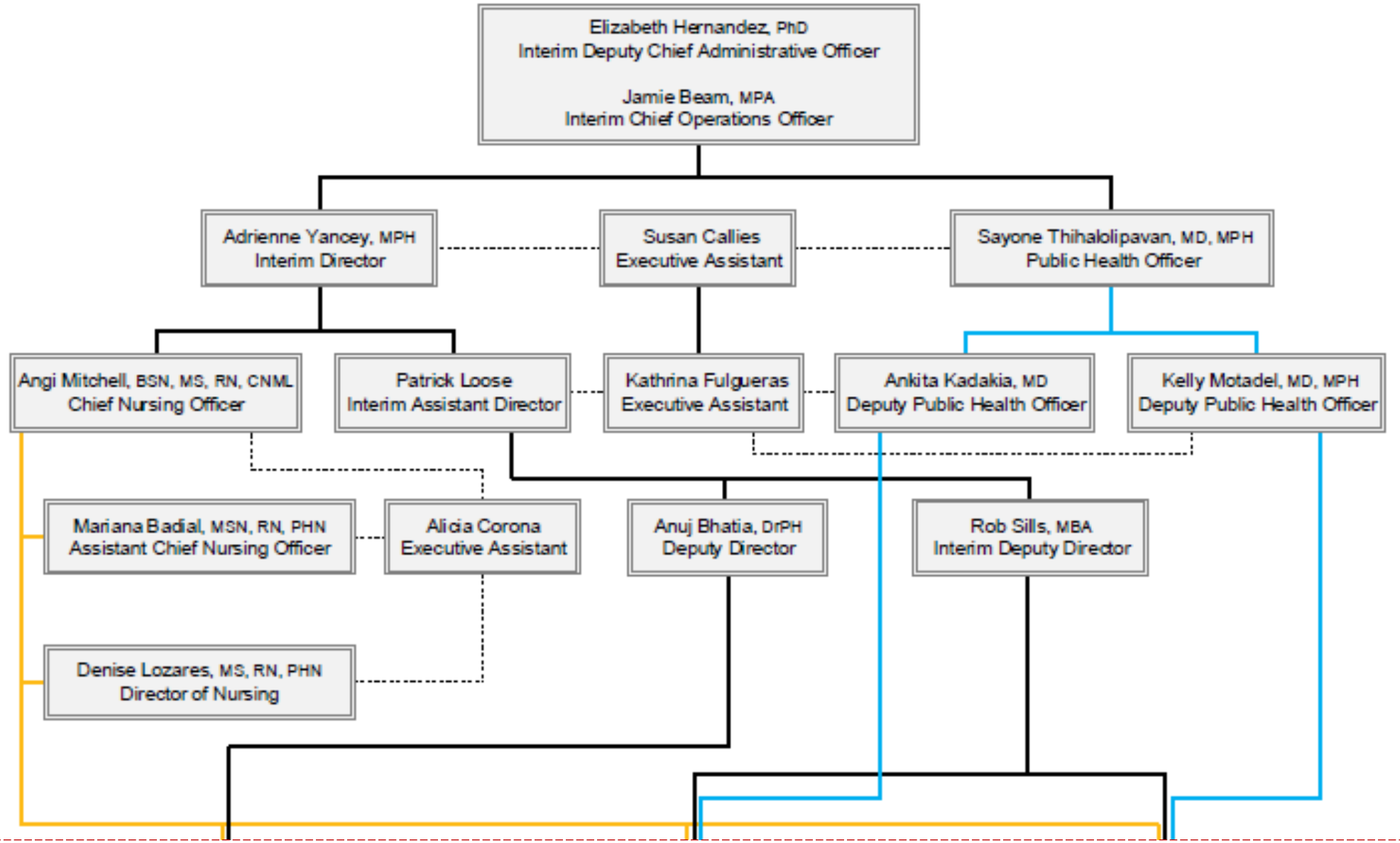
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

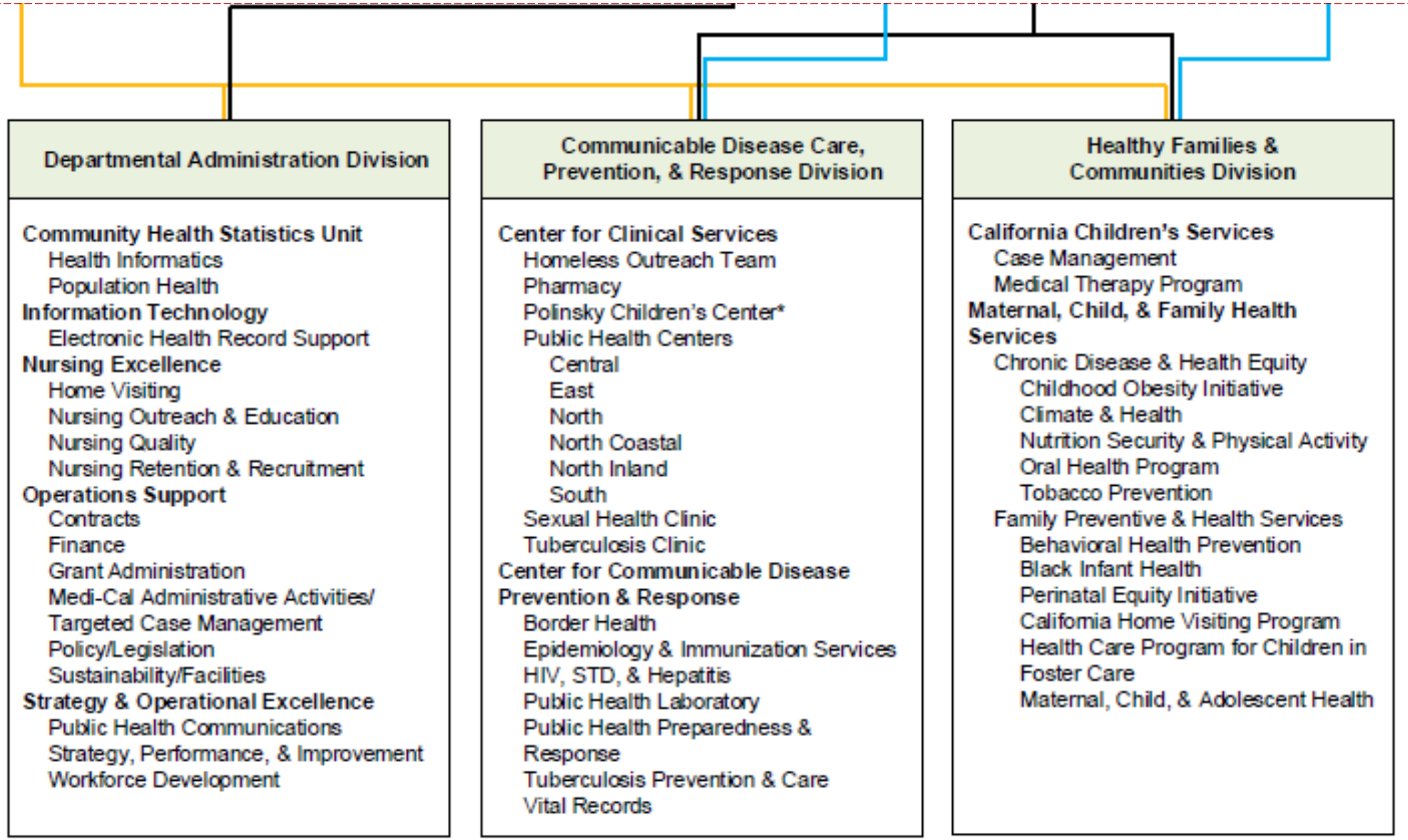
LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

NEW PHS ORG CHART



Health & Human Services Agency – Public Health Services 2026




Departmental Administration Division
Community Health Statistics Unit
Health Informatics
Population Health
Information Technology
Electronic Health Record Support
Nursing Excellence
Home Visiting
Nursing Outreach & Education
Nursing Quality
Nursing Retention & Recruitment
Operations Support
Contracts
Finance
Grant Administration
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities/
Targeted Case Management
Policy/Legislation
Sustainability/Facilities
Strategy & Operational Excellence
Public Health Communications
Strategy, Performance, & Improvement
Workforce Development
Communicable Disease Care, Prevention, & Response Division
Center for Clinical Services
Homeless Outreach Team
Pharmacy
Polinsky Children's Center*
Public Health Centers
Central
East
North
North Coastal
North Inland
South
Sexual Health Clinic
Tuberculosis Clinic
Center for Communicable Disease Prevention & Response
Border Health
Epidemiology & Immunization Services
HIV, STD, & Hepatitis
Public Health Laboratory
Public Health Preparedness & Response
Tuberculosis Prevention & Care
Vital Records
Healthy Families & Communities Division
California Children's Services
Case Management
Medical Therapy Program
Maternal, Child, & Family Health Services
Chronic Disease & Health Equity
Childhood Obesity Initiative
Climate & Health
Nutrition Security & Physical Activity
Oral Health Program
Tobacco Prevention
Family Preventive & Health Services
Behavioral Health Prevention
Black Infant Health
Perinatal Equity Initiative
California Home Visiting Program
Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care
Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health
* Clinical services for Polinsky Children's Center residents starting in January 2027
LIVE WELL
Clinical
Nursing
Administrative Support
Sep. 21, 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



Credit: iStock/Lidya Elfa Sari

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY | LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

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!



The County of San Diego is offering an exciting career opportunity as an **Assistant Director, Departmental Operations** in the Public Health Services (PHS) Department. We are seeking an individual with strong leadership and management skills to be responsible for the direct operational oversight and coordination of the divisions within PHS.

Minimum Qualifications

Five (5) years of experience that demonstrates the ability to perform the essential functions of the classification. Experience must include four (4) years of management level experience and at least one (1) year of supervision; AND a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university or a certified foreign equivalency.

How to Apply

You may complete an online application at www.sandiegocounty.gov/hr; select the Current Job Postings link, Job Number **26229709UPHS**. Applications should include a copy of your resume as well as your college degree, final transcript, diploma, or foreign studies equivalency certificate (if education was obtained outside of the U.S.).

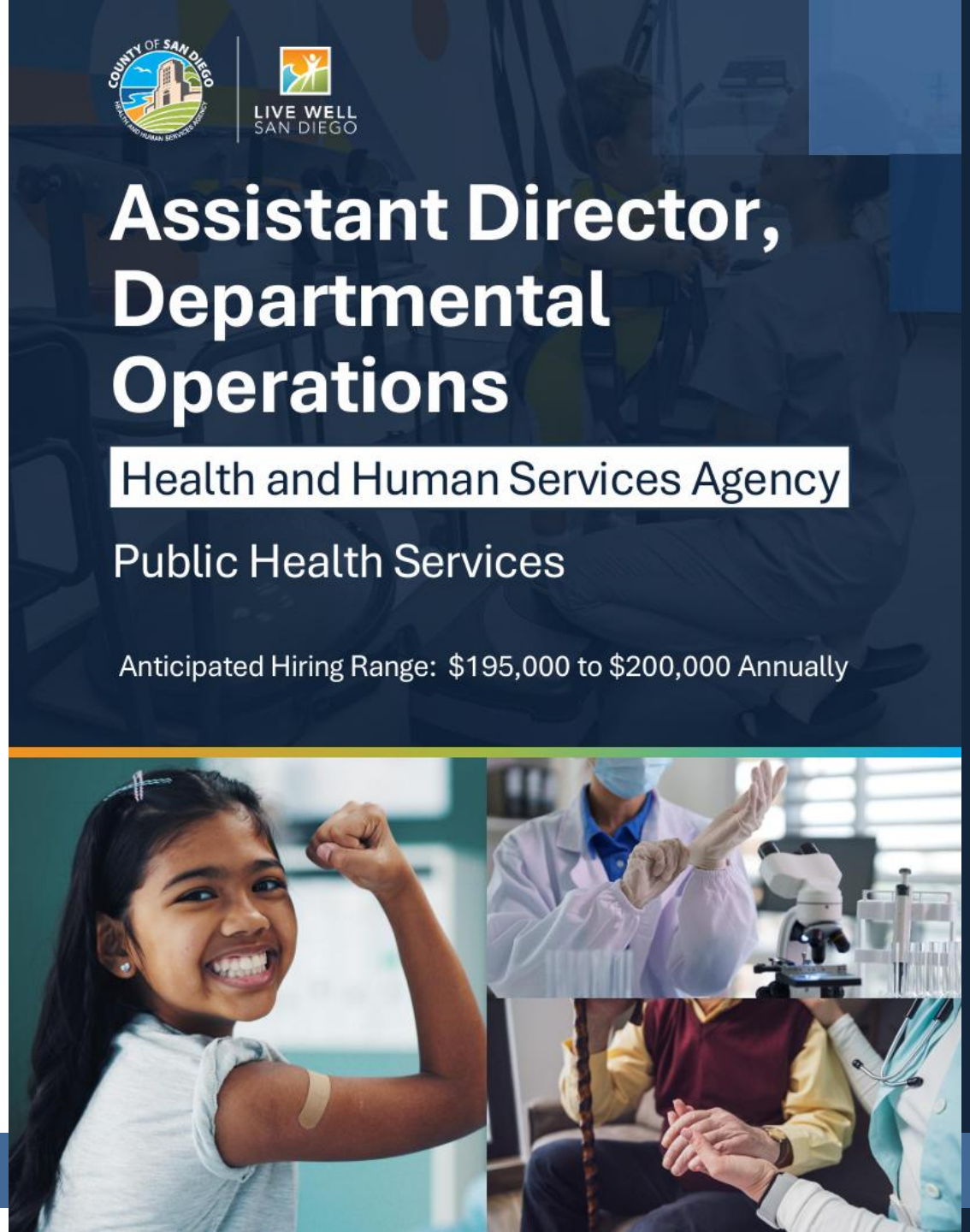
Key Dates

- 1st Round Interviews: Anticipated for the week of October 19, 2026.
- Anticipated Start Date: Anticipated for December 2026.

You may direct any questions regarding the application and selection process to Bryan Faircloth, Executive Recruiter, at: Bryan.Faircloth@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Questions about the position may be directed to Beverly Connolly, Human Resources Services Manager, at: Beverly.Connolly@sdcounty.ca.gov.

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hr/jobs/AstDir_Ops_PHS_Final.pdf



Health Services Advisory Board Meeting

Thank you!

The Public Health Services department, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, has maintained national public health accreditation, since May 17, 2016, and was re-accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board on August 21, 2023.

Hip Pocket

San Diego County Air Pollution Control District

Air Improvement Relief Effort (AIRE) Program Relaunch

The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) is now accepting applications for the Air Improvement Relief Effort (AIRE) program.

- Eligible households can now receive **up to three air purifiers and replacement filters for FREE**, while supplies last.
- Returning participants can request **up to two (2) additional purifiers/replacement filters and new applicants can request up to three (3)**.
- Apply online at **https://www.sdapcd.org/aire**
- Approved households will receive air purifier(s) by mail, from the manufacturer to applicant's listed address.

Most households in the City of San Diego communities of Otay Mesa West, San Ysidro, Egger Highlands, Nestor, and Tijuana River Valley, and the City of Imperial Beach are eligible.

Questions? Email filters@sdapcd.org or call (858) 586 2779

Due to limited quantities, some eligible households may not receive air purifiers.



Households within the program area are encouraged to **apply by 09/01/2026**. If number of applications submitted exceeds available supply, the application portal may close at an earlier date.

If you applied on or before May 15, 2026, and have previously received an air purifier through the program, you must still live within the program eligibility area and reapply to request additional air purifiers.

Free Food Distribution Partnership

- In partnership with the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank and Feeding San Diego, the County of San Diego is expanding free food distributions at six community locations. There are no income or residence requirements to receive food.
- Please note that the schedule is subject to change and currently tentative. For more available food distribution sites please visit 211's Food Assistance Resources.
- See the most current dates and times at: Access Fresh Food Near You | Live Well San Diego



Location	Dates	Time
South Region Live Well Center at Chula Vista 690 Oxford St, Chula Vista, CA 91911	• Saturday 8/8/26 • Saturday 9/12/26 • Saturday 10/10/26 • Saturday 11/14/26 • Saturday 12/12/26	9am - 12pm
El Cajon Family Resource Center 220 S 1st St, El Cajon, CA 92019	• Saturday 8/15/26 • Saturday 9/19/26 • Saturday 10/17/26 • Saturday 11/21/26 • Saturday 12/19/26	9am - 12pm
North Central Live Well Center 5055 Ruffin Rd, San Diego, CA 92123	• Saturday 9/5/26 • Saturday 10/3/26 • Saturday 11/7/26 • Saturday 12/5/26	9am - 12pm
North Coastal Live Well Center 3708 Ocean Ranch Blvd, Oceanside, CA 92056	• Saturday 9/26/26 • Saturday 10/24/26 • Saturday 11/28/26 • Saturday 12/26/26	9am - 12pm
Spring Valley Library 836 Kempton St, Spring Valley, CA 91977	• Friday 8/28/26 • Friday 9/11/26 • Friday 9/25/26 • Friday 10/9/26 • Friday 10/23/26 • Friday 11/13/26 • Friday 12/11/26	5pm - 7pm
Spring Valley Community Center 8735 Jamacha Blvd, Spring Valley, CA 91977	• Friday 8/21/26 • Friday 9/4/26 • Friday 9/18/26 • Friday 10/2/26 • Friday 10/16/26 • Friday 11/6/26 • Friday 11/20/26 • Friday 12/4/26 • Friday 12/18/26	TBD