



"Protecting the health of all Californians"

Public Health Week

APRIL 6, 2016

THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) mission is to optimize the health and well-being of the people of California. CDPH is both large and complex, with over 3,700 employees distributed between six Centers, six Offices and over 200 programs. Below is a brief snapshot of the centers and offices that house California's foundational public health services.

Licensing

The Center for Health Care Quality (CHCQ) is responsible for regulatory oversight of health facilities, certified nurse assistants (CNAs), home health aides (HHAs), certified hemodialysis technicians (CHTs) and licensed nursing home administrators. Through the Center's Licensing and Certification (L&C) and Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) programs, the CHCQ plays a critical role protecting patient safety. CHCQ does this by evaluating applicant health facilities, agencies, and CNA, HHA, CHT and licensed nursing home administrator applicants for compliance with state laws and regulations. CHCQ also investigates complaints, certifies health facilities' and agencies' compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, and oversees the education, training, and criminal record clearance of nursing home administrators, CNAs, HHAs, and CHTs.

Chronic Diseases

The Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CCDHP) houses the Chronic Disease and Injury Control (CDIC), Environmental and Occupational Disease Control and the Office of Problem Gambling. Within CDIC is the Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Branch, the Safe and Active Communities Branch (Injury and Violence Prevention), the Chronic Disease Surveillance and Research Branch, the Chronic Disease Control Branch, and the Tobacco Control Branch. Together with local partners these programs create a vital statewide system to prevent chronic diseases throughout the state.

Emergencies

The Emergency Preparedness Office (EPO) coordinates overall planning and preparedness efforts for the California Department of Public Health. EPO responds to, plans and executes activities to prepare Californians for public health emergencies, coordinates planning for the Strategic National Stockpile, maintains contact names and numbers for crisis response, oversees statewide public health disaster planning, and distributes and oversees funds to local health departments for disaster planning and response.

Laboratories

The Office of the State Public Health Laboratory Director (OSPHLD) protects the public health by assuring accurate and reliable clinical, environmental and public health laboratory services through support services, consultation and regulatory compliance oversight of the six independent public health laboratories that comprise the State Public Health Laboratory System, OSPHLD also provides an executive staff level focus for laboratory science policy issues and coordination at CDPH. The Chief of the Office is designated as the director of the state public health laboratory and has responsibility for laboratory related policy development, and oversight for the state public health laboratory at Richmond.

Infectious Diseases

The Center for Infectious Diseases (CID) protects the people in California from the threat of preventable infectious diseases and assists those living with an infectious disease in securing prompt and appropriate access to healthcare, medications and associated support services. CID houses the Division of Communicable Disease Control, the Office of AIDS, the Office of Binational Border Health, and the office of refugee health.

Health Equity

The Office of Health Equity (OHE) plays a key leadership role in reducing health and mental health disparities in vulnerable communities throughout the state. OHE builds cross-sectoral partnerships and consults with community-based organizations and local governmental agencies to ensure that diverse perspectives and input are included in policies, strategic plans, recommendations, and activities.

Environmental Health

The Center for Environmental Health protects the public from unsafe food and drinking water; regulates the generation, handling, and disposal of medical waste; and oversees the disposal of low-level radioactive waste. CEH ensures that California's food, drugs, and medical devices are safe. Along with the Center for Infectious Diseases, CEH plays a crucial role in water and foodborne outbreak investigations. CEH is comprised of the Division of Food, Drug and Radiation Safety, and Environmental Management.

Family Health

The Center for Family Health (CFH) houses the Genetic Disease Screening Program (GDSP), the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program (MCAH), and the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC). GDSP screens newborns and pregnant women, and provides follow up services including counseling and confirmatory tests. Through partners at the local level, MCAH develops and implements systems that protect and improve the health of California's women of reproductive age, infants, children, adolescents, and their families. The WIC Program serves low-income women, infants and preschool children through nutrition education classes and counseling, support for breastfeeding, referrals to healthcare and other services, and access to nutritious foods at grocery stores.

Vital Records & Statistics

The Center for Health Statistics and Informatics (CHSI) maintains California's birth, death, fetal death, still birth, marriage and divorce records. CHSI coordinates department-wide initiatives to improve system effectiveness through better health information technology, increased epidemiologic analysis, strong liaisons with public health organizations and schools of public health, and effective partnerships with local health agencies and professionals. CHSI is working to create an ecosystem of data sharing promoting better access to data to drive policy and program development.