

WE ARE PUBLIC HEALTH

BY CALIFORNIA'S LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Earlier this month, the California Department of Public Health recognized the heroic and lifesaving actions of California's local public health officials, honoring them with the prestigious [2021 Beverlee A. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health](#). Colleen Chawla, Immediate Past President and current Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency accepted the award on behalf of local health department directors. Chawla said frontline public health workers across the state share this recognition. Each is a vital part of the collective work the public health workforce does to keep our communities healthy and the work we remain committed to advancing: health equity, community partnerships, and ensuring healthy and safe communities for all.

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THE 2021 BEVERLEE A. MYERS AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH
Public Health Executives and Health Officers

The California Department of Public Health awarded the 2021 Beverlee A. Myers award to California's public health directors and officers for dedication and commitment to public health.

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Congratulations to the 2020, 2021, and 2022 Beverlee A. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health Recipients!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE **Beverlee A. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health Recipients**

2020: Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH (California Local Public Health Directors)

2021: (California Local Public Health Directors)

2022: Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, MD, PhD (California Local Public Health Officers)

"This award belongs not just to the health executives and health officers, but also the thousands of public health workers who support us in keeping our communities healthy and serve as shining examples of commitment, sacrifice, and public service."

Colleen Chawla, CHEAC Immediate Past President and Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Director

STD AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS ENGAGE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Led by the Centers for Disease Control, [STD Awareness Week](#) provides an opportunity to raise awareness about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and how they impact our lives; reduce STD-related stigma, fear, and discrimination; and ensure people have the tools and knowledge to prevent, test for, and treat STDs.

The Trinity County Public Health Department took action to address significant gaps in access to testing and treatment services and sexually transmitted infections (STI) education by expanding deployment of their mobile public health unit to reach rural and remote areas of the county. The County also contracts with a company to provide testing and treatment services for specific STIs and is developing a plan to ensure STI treatment is available for all community members through a partnership with medical providers.

To raise awareness about STD's, [Solano County Public Health Department's Communicable Disease Program](#) hosted a community event to bring together trusted members of the community and grassroots organizations to help amplify messaging, destigmatize the conversation, and provide health education to address health inequities. Solano County provided HIV/STD education in English, Spanish, and Tagalog, which included information on testing locations and resources.



CHEAC CALLS FOR #PUBLICHERO FUNDING DURING NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Earlier this month, California's local health departments celebrated National Public Health Week through community events and vaccine clinics, sharing information about local public health programs and services. CHEAC marked the important week by calling for new #PublicHERO investments.

To kickoff National Public Health Week, CHEAC [launched a social media campaign](#) highlighting #HealthEquity initiatives and community partnerships and called on Governor Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders to support their [#PublicHERO legislative package](#).

In Napa County, the Department of Public Health [hosted a public health fair](#) to celebrate. The theme "Building Happy and Healthy Communities" brought together community-based organizations and partners from throughout the county for fun, health-related, and wellness activities, including story time, Zumba, hands only CPR training, art, health assessments, raffles and more. They also held an on-site COVID-19 vaccine clinic for people ages 5 and older.

The Placer County Department of Public Health provided a daily electronic newsletter with a variety of virtual activities on topics ranging from health disparities to public health workforce to engage their staff on National Public Health Week. To incentivize participation, the Department offered a 2022 California Park Pass and a YETI to the staff person who completed the most virtual activities. Overall, Placer's virtual events brought 25 public health workers together to celebrate this annual event and garnered more than 100 responses!

National Public Health Week provided the Sacramento County Public Health Department an opportunity to highlight a few of the national themes and the intersectional work the County and community-based organizations are driving forward. They focused on three key ways to connect with their staff and community, which included promoting awareness on social media, providing learning opportunities on [climate change](#), [health equity](#), and [racism as a public health crisis](#), and prioritizing connection through staff appreciation.

For National Public Health Week, Sutter County [created a number of short videos](#) on various programs housed within the Sutter County Public Health Branch, including Oral Health, California Children's Services, and Homeless Services and Immunizations. Local Public Health leaders and staff also discussed public health programs and Public Health week in two separate radio interviews with a community radio station. To engage with their community, public health staff held a public health fair, where staff and community partners conducted dental screenings, held healthy food demonstrations, and provided education on a number of public health topics.

PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES FOCUS ON ADVANCING HEALTH IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

April is [National Minority Health Month](#), and this year local health departments joined national partners to highlight the important role individuals and organizations play in helping reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes. The theme 'Give Your Community a Boost,' focused on the importance of COVID vaccines and boosters to protect against COVID-19, which had a disproportionate impact on communities of color.

Earlier this month, the City of Long Beach Health and Human Services Department announced the [opening of the Ronald R. Arias Health Equity Center](#) to offer more resources to families and youth in North Long Beach. In addition to offering free STD testing and education and immunizations, the Center provides housing rental assistance, workforce development, and mental health support for those who were formerly incarcerated. The City of Long Beach also took recent action to [adopt an "equity investment framework"](#) to help guide and award COVID-19 recovery funds to grassroots organizations that are working in hard hit communities.



As a rural county on the border of Oregon, the Siskiyou County Public Health Department has developed a strong collaborative working relationship with neighboring county, Modoc, and the State of Oregon to coordinate and provide services to Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers that work at nearby agricultural nurseries and farmlands. Siskiyou County hosts large vaccination events at the Tulelake Fairgrounds and recently [deployed its mobile vaccination clinic](#) to various employers to target resources to underserved communities. During the vaccination events, public health nurses and workers also provide community members information on COVID-19 quarantine and isolation efforts, social distancing, hygiene, and various other immunizations and services offered through the county.

Riverside University Health System-Public Health [celebrated community partner organizations](#) earlier this month during the Board of Supervisors meeting, honoring 11 partners with its [Public Health Community Champion Award](#) for their contributions and partnership responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Awardees were acknowledged for their notable contributions to improving the health and well-being of Riverside County residents through their work providing COVID-19 education materials, vaccine and testing clinics, community outreach, staffing and other assistance during the pandemic. Additionally, Riverside County and CHEAC recognized several of these partner organizations as local #PublicHealthHeroes in a public health campaign last year.



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