

WE ARE PUBLIC HEALTH

BY CALIFORNIA'S LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

BILL TO CREATE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE & INFRASTRUCTURE BLUEPRINT LANDS ON GOVERNOR'S DESK

Last week, CHEAC and the #CACantWait Coalition's sponsored bill, AB 240, gained passage in the Senate and Assembly, the final step in the legislative process before landing on Governor Newsom's desk. Our coalition is pressing Governor Newsom to sign this important bill.

AB 240 is a crucial piece of legislation that would develop the data California needs to address gaps in our workforce and infrastructure from the past decade and more of disinvestment that were exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

California made right on the promise to begin to rebuild our workforce and infrastructure as part of this year's budget, but what's missing is a comprehensive assessment of what is needed now and into the future to combat existing and emerging public health threats, like rising rates of STDs, tuberculosis, syphilis, and diabetes that have exacerbated over the past decade and made worsened over the past two years.

CHEAC and our CACantWait partners are launching a [social media campaign](#) on Monday, encouraging Governor Newsom to sign the bill into law and begin this crucial work to protect communities from public health threats.

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CHEAC @CHEAC · Aug 24

👏 #CACantWait applauds the #CAAssembly for passage of our sponsored bill, AB 240 by @AsmRodriguez52! AB 240 now heads to the Governor for his consideration.

@GavinNewsom: AB 240 supports #PublicHealth departments effective response to public health threats! Yes on AB 240!

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY APPROVES AB 240

AB 240 requires a comprehensive public health workforce & infrastructure needs assessment.

#CACantWait





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CHEAC PRESIDENT, LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS TESTIFY ON MPX EFFORTS, CHALLENGES

The newly formed Senate Select Committee on MPX, [chaired by Senator Scott Wiener \(D-San Francisco\)](#), held its [first committee hearing](#) on Tuesday, August 9th, to hear from state and local health officials amid growing concerns of MPX outbreaks and a national shortage of vaccines.

The Senate Select Committee on MPX heard from a [panel of local public health officials](#), including testimony from CHEAC President and Riverside County Public Health Director Kim Saruwatari; San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Public Health Services Director Elizabeth Hernandez; San Francisco Department of Public Health Director Dr. Grant Colfax; and Los Angeles County Public Health Officer Dr. Muntu Davis who highlighted local strategies, interventions, and challenges in curbing the spread of MPX. Common themes shared by local public health officials included a shortage of testing options, long testing turnaround times, a mass shortage of available vaccines, and lack of treatment providers.

California's local public health departments continue to deploy all available tools to address MPX outbreaks, including declarations of a [state of emergency](#), hosting [community town halls](#), launching [local awareness campaigns](#), working closely with [community-based organizations](#) to host [MPX vaccination events](#), and deploying resources and [information to at-risk communities](#).

The full Senate Committee on MPX hearing is [available here](#).

PUBLIC HEALTH LAUNCHES IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Every August, local public health departments launch public awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of routine vaccinations to protect against vaccine-preventable diseases as part of National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This year was particularly important to ensure that kids preparing to head back to the classroom don't miss school due to missing vaccinations.

Nevada County Public Health's Immunization (IZ) Team has a history of being the county safety net provider, providing 1,000 - 1,500 vaccinations per year pre-pandemic, and working closely with community health workers on the Resources for Equity, Access and Community Health (REACH) Team to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates. In 2021, the IZ team is credited with administering over 25,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines and they continue to work diligently with the REACH Team to build upon this success. For NIAM, the IZ team added extra clinics each week to help children get vaccine-ready for school and recently adorned more than 300 children with capes to celebrate them as superheroes for attending the vaccination event.



NEVADA COUNTY IMMUNIZATION TEAM

To ensure students start the school year on a positive note, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency designed a [Back-to-School Toolkit](#) with information related to immunization requirements, COVID-19 testing and masking. This toolkit connects families and school staff with resources to help students stay healthy. They also launched a social media campaign, encouraging parents to get their [babies](#) and [teens](#) updated on routine vaccines.

In San Diego County, the Health and Human Services Agency recognized the critical role vaccinations have in protecting individual and community health by [launching an immunization campaign](#) with vaccine resources and promotional materials including [social media messages](#) for the community. The Agency also hosted vaccines clinics throughout the county to make sure children and families are protected and up to date on vaccines.

Prioritizing access to [no cost COVID-19 testing](#) remains a top priority as part of Monterey County Public Health Department's (MCHD) vaccination initiatives alongside promotion of getting COVID-19 vaccines and boosters and getting up to date on [routine vaccines](#). MCHD remains actively involved with community partners and community health workers to advance local public health initiatives and increase public awareness on COVID-19 vaccines. Recent grant funding from the Center at Sierra Health Foundation has allowed the MCHD to expand their partnership with the Virus Integrated Distribution of Aid (VIDA) project and United Way Monterey County to the Central Coast Visiting Nurses Association to host more than [60 pop-up vaccine clinics](#) with community-based organizations through the end of the year.

PREVENTING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

To address the increasing number of overdose deaths related opioids, local public health departments are leading efforts to educate community members about the dangers of fentanyl, the lifesaving power of naloxone, and the importance of reducing stigma around recovery and treatment options.

Riverside County organized a team of local experts to review overdose deaths, identify opportunities to improve countywide overdose epidemiology, and recommend initiatives to prevent substance use, overdose, and death. Housed within the [Riverside Overdose Data to Action \(RODA\) Program](#), the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team uses a health equity framework and Healthy Places Index data to increase coordination and collaboration among partner agencies and address the barriers to prevention, support, and treatment to deliver more equitable health outcomes.

Earlier this month, the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services hosted the [12th annual "Don't Miss a Beat" event](#) in conjunction with county and community partners to provide free, life-saving training on how to support victims of sudden cardiac arrest, traumatic injury, or overdose. Marin County Emergency Medical Services staff and volunteers trained attendees how to administer Narcan, a lifesaving opioid overdose reversal spray, along with training on CPR and First Aid. In addition to these life-saving training events, Marin County works with county partners, community agencies and non-profit organizations to develop the annual ["Let's Talk" Toolkit](#) for middle and high school families to boost awareness of underage substance use and mental health issues.



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