

WE ARE PUBLIC HEALTH

BY CALIFORNIA'S LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

GOVERNOR'S VETO LEAVES CALIFORNIA WITHOUT A BLUEPRINT TO REBUILD PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE, INFRASTRUCTURE

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@CHEAC

On Wednesday, Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed Assembly Bill 240, a bill sponsored by the California Can't Wait (#CACantWait) Coalition to prepare California for the next public health crisis. CHEAC and our #CACantWait partners [issued a statement](#) in response to the Governor's veto, which read in part:

"The COVID-19 pandemic and MPX outbreak demonstrate why California must take action to better understand our local workforce and infrastructure needs. We don't know whether the next threat will be in the form of a virus, food-borne pathogen or natural disaster but we do know California needs to improve our readiness as current and emerging public health threats loom," said Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director of the County Health Executives Association of California and Co-Lead of California Can't Wait. "Governor Newsom's recent commitment of funding will begin to rebuild our deteriorated local public health infrastructure and develop additional staffing to support an overwhelmed workforce, but California can be a leader by continuing to do more to support 21st century, high-performing local public health departments and that starts with a detailed assessment of our current and future needs."

The bill won overwhelming bipartisan support in both the California State Assembly and Senate; the veto comes just as California begins rolling out new COVID booster vaccines to stave off a winter surge and addressing the MPX outbreak remains a concern in communities across the state. AB 240 requires a comprehensive assessment of what is needed for a strong public health infrastructure and workforce in California to prevent, assess, and respond to public health threats. CHEAC and #CACantWait partners will continue to pursue efforts to assess our local public health workforce and infrastructure.



CDPH WARNS SCHOOL LEADERS ABOUT NEW 'RAINBOW FENTANYL' PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT

The California Department of Public Health recently [issued a letter](#) to superintendents and charter school administrators warning them that a new form of fentanyl that looks like rainbow colored candy has been concocted to target children and young adults.

Local public health departments continue to raise awareness about the opioid epidemic and help provide increased access to the life-saving medication, Naloxone, which rapidly reverses opioid overdoses.

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONFRONTS CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Childhood obesity is a serious health problem that local public health departments across the state are helping to address. While the causes of obesity are complex, the CDC reports that one in five children and adolescents are affected. Social determinants of health including access to healthy, affordable foods and access to safe places for physical activity, impact health outcomes.

After a 2018 health assessment found that only two out of five residents in Napa County walk regularly for transport, exercise, or fun, the Napa County Department of Public Health took action, leading county efforts through the [ParkRx Coalition](#) to increase park access through a new [app-based service called OuterSpatial](#) that helps promote moving more outdoors. Through neighborhood walking maps, themed challenges, and scavenger hunts, the app helps connect youth and adults with free events and activities to encourage residents to go outdoors and be active for improved health and be rewarded for their activities! The ParkRx Coalition also uses the app to promote free local park outings like guided nature hikes, story walks, disc golf, and kayaking, and highlights community activities such as tree planting events, yoga in the park and free family movement classes.

Napa County Public Health's CalFresh Healthy Living Program funds the Napa ParkRx Coalition, a multi-sector group representing public land agencies, healthcare providers and community partners working to encourage residents to utilize parks, trails, and open spaces to reduce chronic disease and address health equity. OuterSpatial is updated monthly by coalition members to help residents of all ages find fun ways to get involved in local community outings and enjoy parks.

NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION MONTH HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

Local public health departments across the state took part in National Food Safety Education Month to highlight local initiatives to ensure that food served and sold is safe, wholesome, properly labeled, and produced under sanitary conditions. Launched in 1994, National Food Safety Month raises awareness about the importance of food safety education.

Earlier this month, the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services presented their [Food Safety program](#) to the Long Beach City Council and the public. Dr. Anissa Davis, City Health Officer, Judeth Luong, Manager for the Environmental Health Bureau and Katy Nomura, Deputy City Manager provided an overview of the program, discussed the importance of food safety, and the role of Registered Environmental Health Specialists. The program is responsible for ensuring all of Long Beach and visitors to Long Beach are safe and don't become ill when they are eating at restaurants, at special events, and at food trucks and food carts.

The Environmental Health Bureau of the Monterey County Health Department partnered with the Food Safety Advisory Council of Monterey County for the [14th Annual Food Safety Conference](#) as part of their month-long food safety awareness initiatives. In addition to professional presentations regarding food safety, local food establishments were nominated for the Award of Excellence, a highlight of the Monterey County Health Department's Gold Seal program for retail food facilities.



COMMUNITY-BUILDING, PARTNERSHIPS HELP ADDRESS SUICIDE

National Suicide Prevention Week, September 4 to September 10, is an annual campaign to educate and inform the general public about suicide prevention and the warning signs of suicide. Across the state, local public health departments engaged with local governments, public agencies, and community-based organizations to train and educate, and provide resources on suicide prevention.

Riverside University Health System (RUHS)-Public Health - the local county public health department - kicked off Suicide Prevention Week with a Proclamation delivered by the Board of Supervisors highlighting Riverside County's commitment to provide education and outreach to those in crisis. The County continues to lead local initiatives to address suicide working in partnership with schools, community organizations, law enforcement, and health care providers, including no-cost trainings on how to identify and support someone with thoughts of suicide. RUHS-Public Health also engages with students to address the stigma associated with suicide and encourage help seeking by training youth to act as supports to friends and peers in crisis. Most recently, RUHS-Public Health's and RUHS-Behavioral Health formed a Suicide Prevention Coalition to help curb the impacts of suicide throughout Riverside County.

More recently, Sutter-Yuba Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) staff conducted targeted outreach and education, provided vital information on the region's new 988 number and crisis line, and provided trainings on suicide prevention to the community. Through these efforts, the Sutter-Yuba PEI team, housed within Sutter County Public Health, continues to provide individuals, friends, and families with access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and how to seek help.



Top row Left to right: Supervisor Chuck Washington, Supervisor Karen Spiegel, Chairmen Jeff Hewitt, Supervisor Victor Manuel Perez

Bottom row left to right: Rebecca Antillon, RUHS-Public Health, Diana Gutierrez, RUHS-Behavioral Health, Myeshia Bobo, RUHS-Behavioral Health



COUNTY COALITION ENGAGES COMMUNITY AROUND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

As California continues to battle historic wildfires, drought, and other climate-change driven disasters, local public health departments are supporting efforts to prepare communities for emergencies during Emergency Preparedness Month.

Plumas County has been on the forefront of emergency preparedness, with the Plumas County Public Health Agency (PCPHA) leading efforts to conduct emergency planning, response, and recovery in partnership with community-based organizations through their Access and Functional Need (AFN) workgroup. Since 2018, PCPHA's AFN workgroup has been a crucial part of the county's emergency planning, response, and recovery initiatives, helping to ensure that individuals have the assistance they need before, during, and/or after an emergency hits. The AFN workgroup was instrumental in the county's response during the North Complex and Dixie Fires, helping to connect community members with vital information from the County's Emergency Operation Center and ensuring everyone was able to receive appropriate and timely transportation during evacuations.



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