

RIVERSIDE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW

Through the 2022 Budget Act, California took a transformational step toward rebuilding our state and local public health workforce and infrastructure that was devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic and years of disinvestment. The \$300 million ongoing General Fund investment (\$200 million for local health departments, \$100 million for CDPH), referred to as the Future of Public Health, is a critical investment in our state's public health readiness and response to existing and emerging public health threats.

FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH INVESTMENTS REBUILD OUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Hired 105 of 107 FTEs
- Positions include nurses, microbiologists, epidemiologists, communicable disease specialists, community health workers, health educators, accountants, a public health economist.
- Created mobile immunization teams and partnered with schools, childcare providers, community centers, and others to provide life-saving vaccines to children, the elderly, and other community members. During Pre-Teen Vaccination week, they hosted 48 mobile clinic events and administered 8,431 doses of vaccine to 7,197 unique patients.
- Their newly formed equity outreach teams attended over 200 events providing health education and connection to public health and other resources. These teams distributed nearly 1,000 COVID-19 test kits, nearly 800 fentanyl test strips and over 1,321 doses of naloxone to the community.
- Funds allowed the county to develop an expanded disease surveillance team to enhance disease detection and reporting and they are able to investigate roughly 99% of tier 1 diseases within a 24-hour time frame, improving their ability to rapidly detect outbreaks and implement measures to prevent further spread.
 - Recent examples include norovirus linked to restaurants, a legionella outbreak in a senior community and an influenza outbreak at a skilled nursing facility.
- Funding allowed Riverside to build infrastructure in their public health lab to meet core functions per the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) guidance and to hire an assistant laboratory director, three public health microbiologists, an outreach manager, laboratory technician, and laboratory assistant.
- The additional staff capacity allowed for:
 - Disease investigations and follow up in skilled nursing facilities and long-term care facilities.
 - Investigation and coordination with Environmental Health EPE in response to a cluster of legionella cases identified at an apartment complex for seniors.
 - Extensive investigation in coordination with the CDPH Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI) Program in response to legionella in hospitalized patients.