

# SAN DIEGO COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

## 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

- Impacts to 91 positions (approximately 12% of the San Diego County Public Health Department staff)
- Supports development of disaster and emergency preparedness and response activities for all 80+ Skilled Nursing, some Long-Term Care Facilities, and other areas.
- Funds staff working in warehouse operations would impact Narcan program for community.
- Hired 4 bus drivers for their new Live Well on Wheels vehicles, one of which is outfitted as a clinic. The vehicles provide person centered services in the community, including rural areas.
- Supports the Public Health Laboratory Veterinarian, which plays a key role in responding to bioterrorism threats, such as anthrax and preventing zoonotic diseases ranging from rabies to avian influenza. The veterinarian serves as PHL's veterinary medical authority overseeing the Rabies Vaccination Program and serves as the liaison to outside entities such as California Department of Public Health's Veterinary Public Health Section. She is also the person responsible for brain removal of animals needing rabies testing which is a primary duty of this position.
- Supports Genomic Epidemiology Team, including wastewater surveillance (an early warning system for emerging infectious diseases), and an increased ability to conduct genomic surveillance (to track the spread of a virus, how it is changing, and how those changes may affect public health).
- Supports laboratory water team to perform beach water testing 7 days a week to ensure the safety and protection of visitors to beaches throughout the county.
- Funds staff to support communicable disease response and operations at a time when the number of reported diseases and outbreaks continues to rise (in 2024, San Diego County has had 3 cases of measles and other significant outbreaks).
- Supports capacity to respond to school related events and outbreaks.
- Supports staffing for vaccine related responses.
- Supports intake and processing of legally reportable reports and lab results.
- Supports medical record collection to support investigations.
- Supports health promotion materials and social media campaigns being produced.
- Supports health promotion and outreach staff being able to engage in community events, health fairs, and partnership opportunities.