



V E N T U R A C O U N T Y

---

**P U B L I C H E A L T H**

A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency



VENTURA COUNTY  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency

# THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEANS WORKING TOGETHER:

## VENTURA COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO A LARGE-SCALE TUBERCULOSIS EXPOSURE

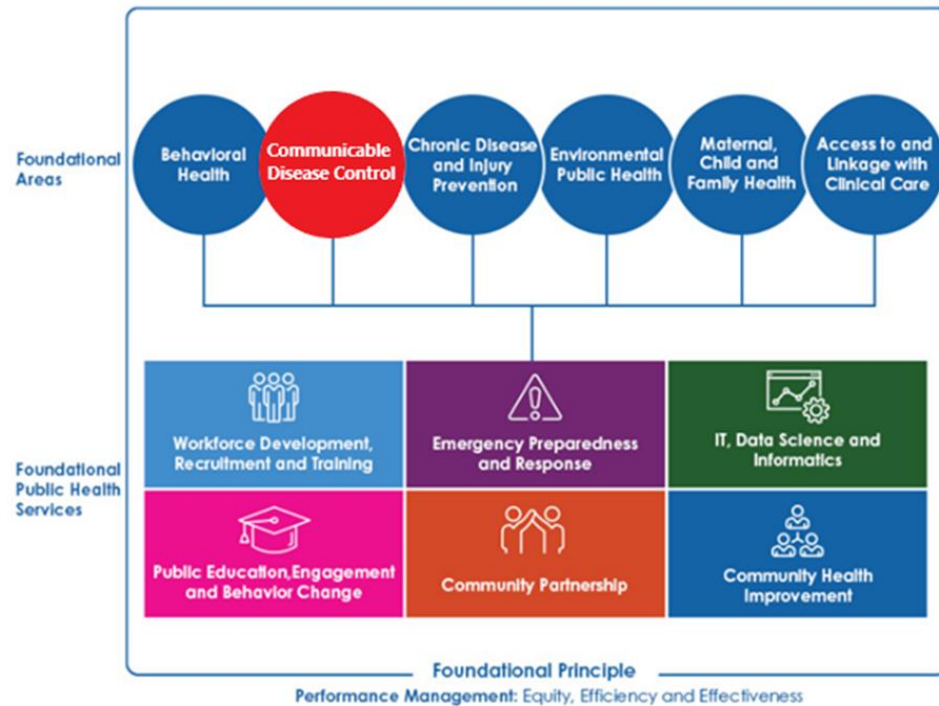
---

Presenters: Hannah Edmondson, RN, PHN, MPH  
Eva Reeder, RN, BSN, PHN

# What is the Future of Public Health?

*"A bold and aspirational plan to invest in California's public health infrastructure for the future."*

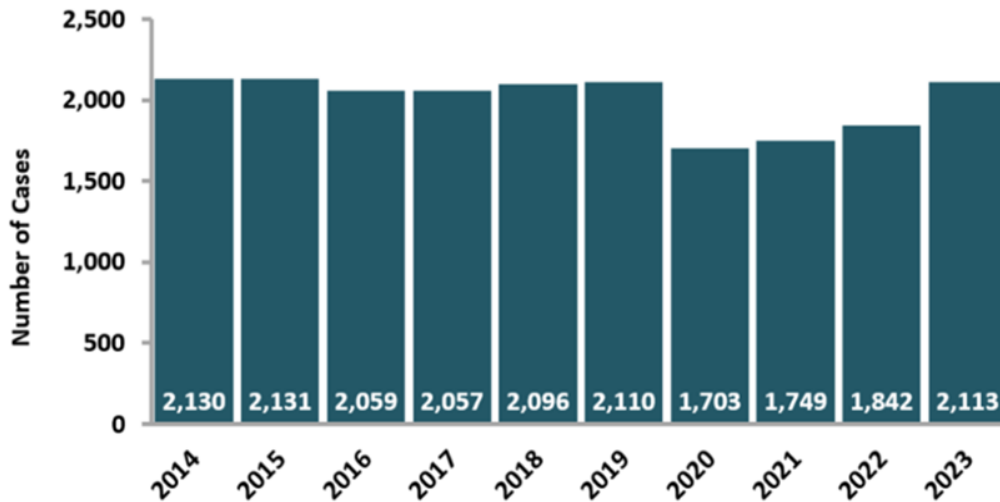
The Future of Public Health initiative emphasizes that everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, geography, or income level, deserves the chance to be healthy – with the aim to close the life expectancy gap by 50% and reduce disease burden by 15% within in the next decade



# Tuberculosis in California: 2023 Snapshot

## TB cases in California have increased 24% since 2020!

Reported TB Cases: California, 2014 – 2023

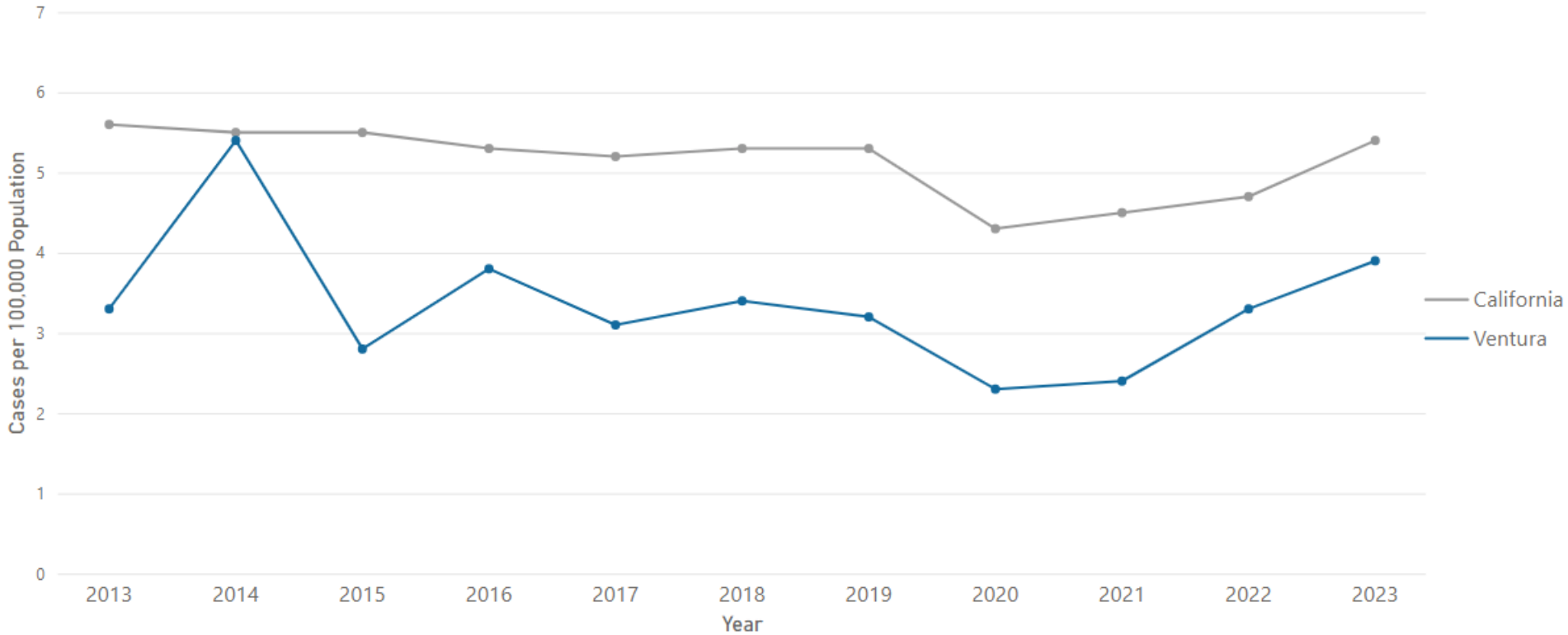


- In 2023, 2,113 new TB cases were reported, a substantial increase (15%) compared to 1,842 cases in 2022.
- Potential reasons for the increase:
  - Resuming social activities
  - Resuming travel
  - Return to routine health care
  - Less TB prevention efforts

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TB-in-California-2023-Snapshot>

# Epi Data for TB in Ventura County vs CA

Tuberculosis Case Rates Reported by CDPH, 2013-2023



# Ventura County TB in the Media



**KTLA 5**  
LA'S VERY OWN

Watch Live  News ▾ Weather ▾ Morning News ▾ Video Shows ▾ Contests

**LOCAL NEWS**

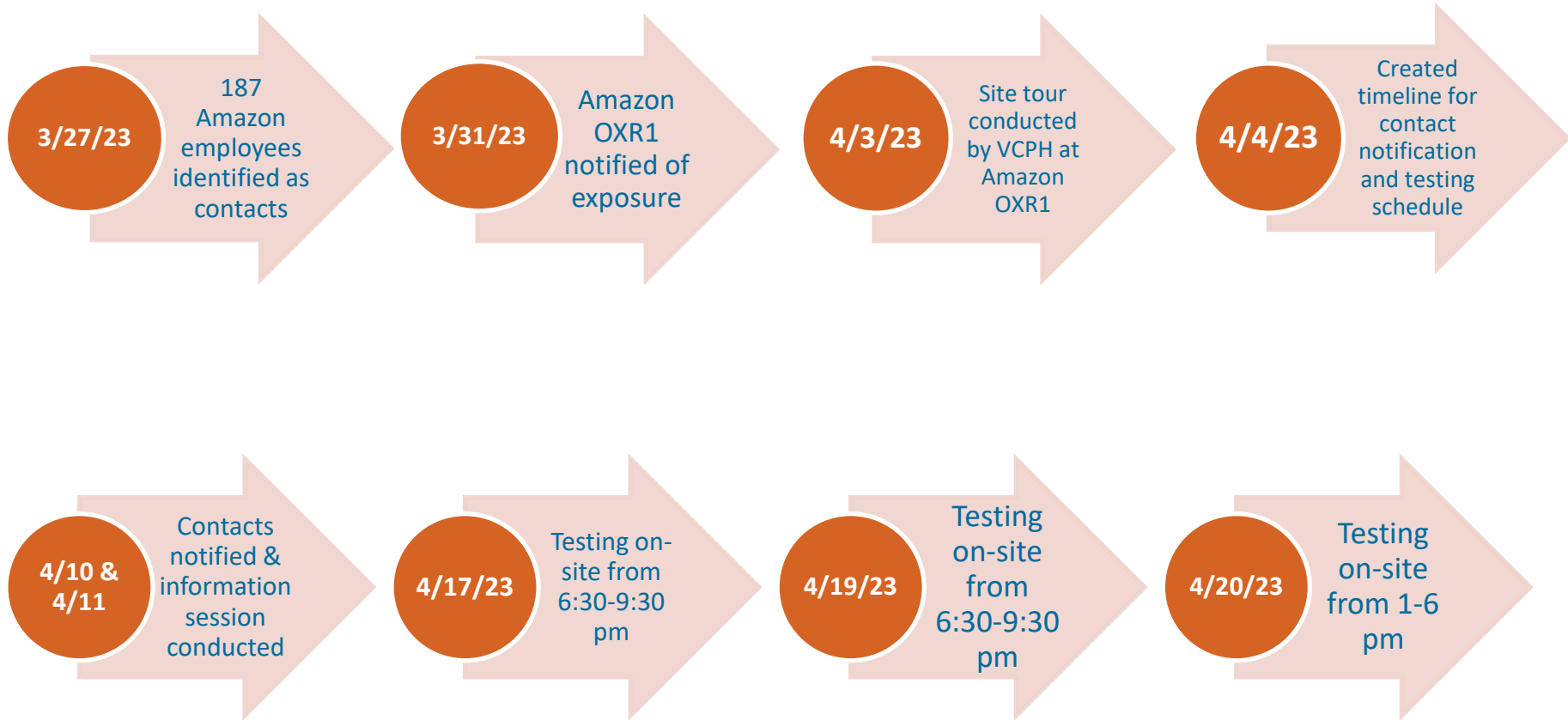
## Active tuberculosis reported at Oxnard Amazon facility

by: [Cameron Kiszla](#)  
Posted: Apr 14, 2023 / 09:27 AM PDT  
Updated: Apr 14, 2023 / 09:27 AM PDT

The Amazon Fulfillment Center in Oxnard is shown on April 14, 2023. (KTLA)

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/possible-tuberculosis-exposure-at-amazon-fulfillment-center-in-oxnard/3134740/>

# Timeline



# Emergency Medical Services (EMS)



Emergency Preparedness  
and Response

*“Increase capacity to respond to emergencies of all kinds, from natural disasters to infectious disease outbreaks to biological/chemical hazards and more.”*

- Logistic support
- EMS Warehouse
  - TB Contact Investigation supplies
  - Inventory
  - Ventura County EMS Supply Order Portal



# Data Science and Informatics



IT, Data Science and  
Informatics

*“Ability to track, derive insights, and take action based on community health data.”*

- CalREDIE
- EHR-(Cerner) for continuity of care.
- Epidemiologist tracking real-time data.
- Follow concentric circle model to use data to drive additional testing needs.

# IT Support

## Supplies:

- Laptops
- EHR – Cerner
- Mobile lab label printer
- Hot Spots



# Workforce Development and Training

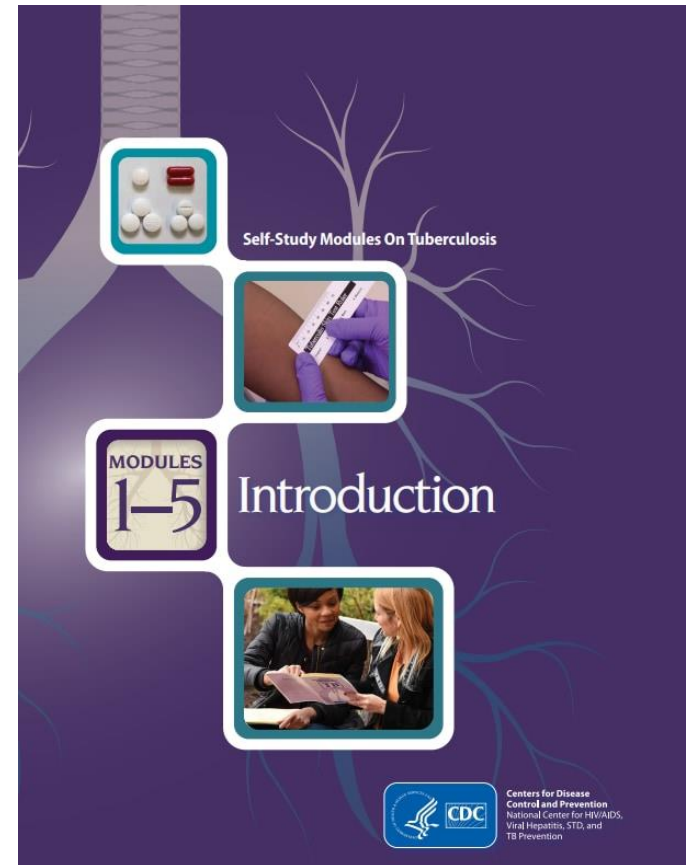


*“Strengthen our capacity at the state and local levels through a diverse workforce reflecting the communities they serve; invest in workforce development and training to help our staff adapt to ever-changing public health demands; grow and develop our current and future employees into public health leaders.”*

- Tuberculosis Control
- Communicable Disease Program
- Public Health Nursing
- Health Education
- Emergency Medical Services
- Information and Technology
- Public Health Laboratory
- Immunization Program
- Administration- Public Information Officer

# PHN Training

- Optional VCPH nursing certification:
  - CDC Self-Study Modules on Tuberculosis
    - TB Disease
    - TB Infection
    - Diagnostics of TB Disease and Infection



# Just in Time Training- QFT Blood Collection

## QuantiFERON<sup>®</sup>-TB Gold Plus — blood collection

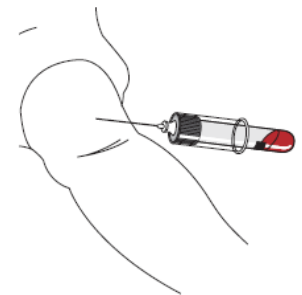
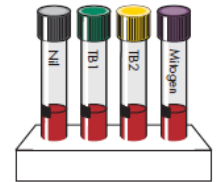
### Option 1: Draw blood directly into QFT<sup>®</sup>-Plus Blood Collection Tubes

#### Blood collection

1. Label QFT-Plus Blood Collection Tubes appropriately.

**Important:** QFT-Plus Blood Collection Tubes should be at room temperature (17–25°C) at the time of blood collection.

2. Collect 1 ml of blood by venipuncture directly into each of the QFT-Plus Blood Collection Tubes.
  - 2a. As 1 ml tubes draw blood relatively slowly, keep the tube on the needle for 2–3 seconds once the tube appears to have completed filling.
  - 2b. The black mark on the side of the tubes indicates the validated range of 0.8 to 1.2 ml. If the level of blood in any tube is outside of the indicator mark, a new blood sample should be obtained.
  - 2c. If a “butterfly needle” is being used to collect blood, a “purge” tube should be used to ensure that the tubing is filled with blood prior to the QFT-Plus Blood Collection Tubes being used.



# Public Education



*“Effectively communicate to diverse audiences with timely, science-based information.”*

- Created a visual presentation for Amazon employees.
- Held educational sessions with translation services available.
- Created handouts in English/Spanish including pictographs to ensure low literacy needs were met.

# Community Partnerships

*“Work in collaboration with community partners and multisector collaborations to harness insights and address issues concerning public health and equity.”*



## NEWS RELEASE

### Media Contact:

Alexandria Arias - Public Information Officer, Public Health  
(805) 981-5101  
Alexandria.arias@ventura.org

April 12, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Tuberculosis Contact Investigation at Oxnard Amazon Fulfillment Center

**Oxnard, CA** – Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) and Amazon have identified an individual that was recently diagnosed with active Tuberculosis (TB) working at the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Oxnard. There are approximately 180 contacts who were potentially exposed to the disease. There is currently no known danger to the public.

Staff from the Ventura County Public Health Tuberculosis Program quickly responded and coordinated with Amazon leadership to notify staff on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> of the potential exposure.

VCPH officials immediately hosted educational sessions for staff where information on TB, testing, symptoms, and treatment plans were offered over two days.

Beginning early next week, testing will be available for staff identified as close contacts (at no cost).

The Ventura County Public Health Tuberculosis Program will continue monitoring this situation and work with the appropriate state and local agencies on surveillance, testing, and tracking of the disease.

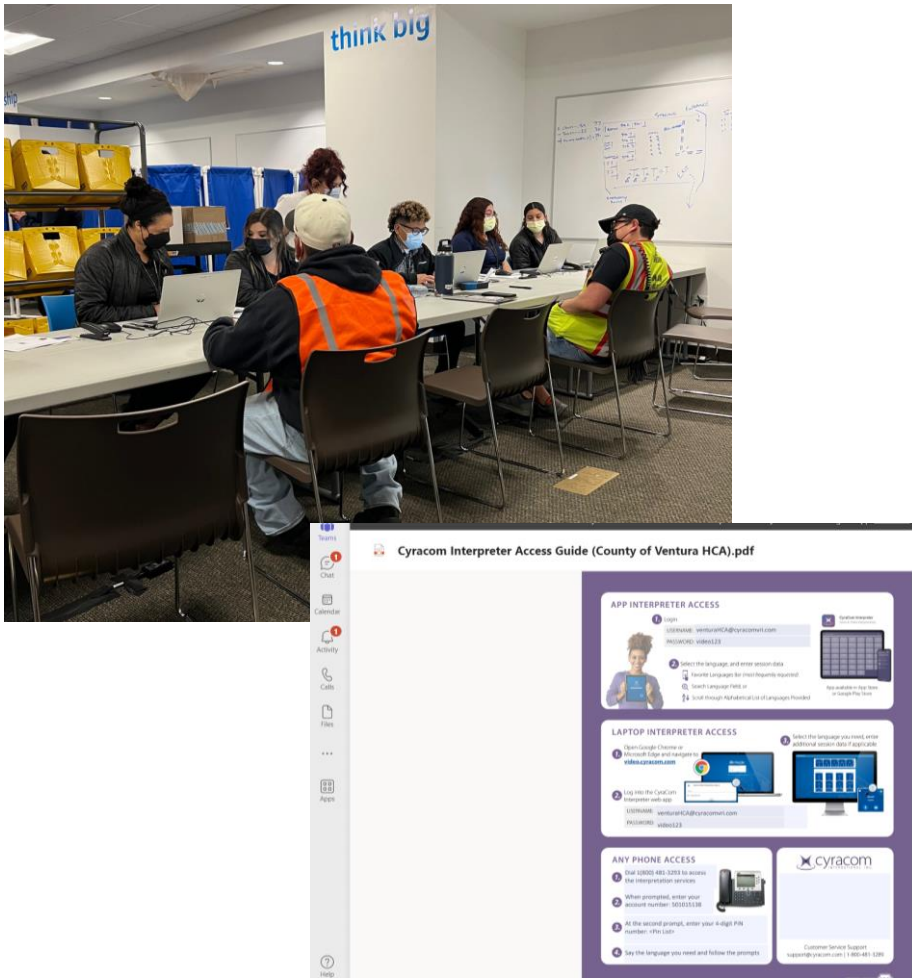
# Community Health Improvement



*“Scale public health from health promotion to a comprehensive population strategy that emphasizes life course approaches, resiliency, equity and prevention.”*

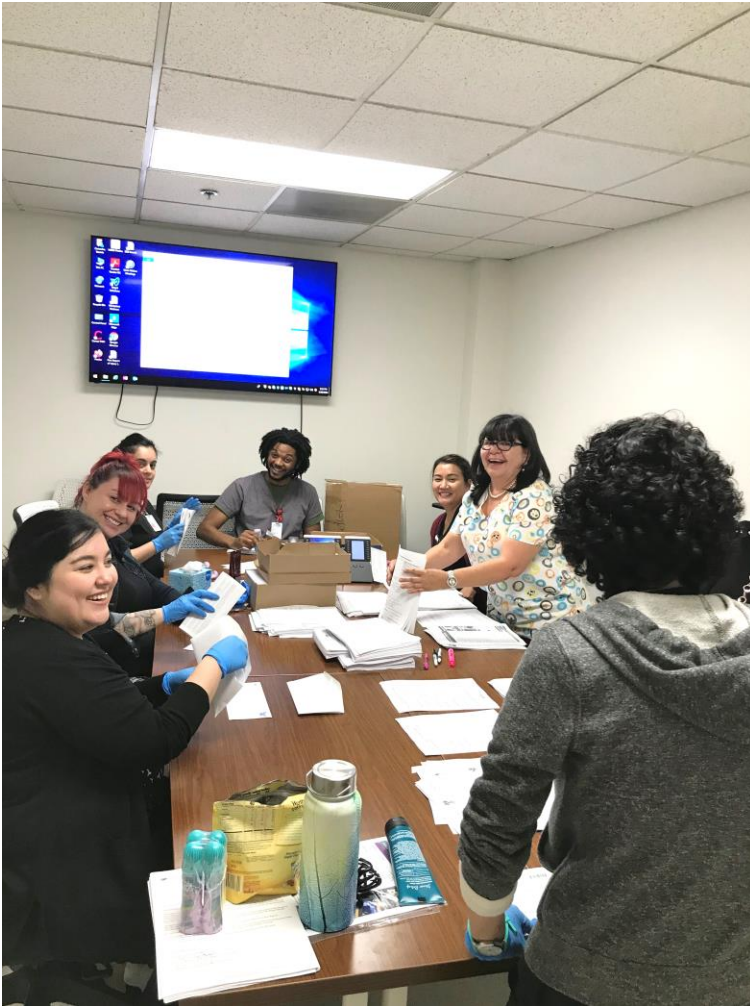
- Translation services.
- Linkage to community resources.
- Inclusive educational materials.
- On-site testing reduced barriers faced by employees.

# Lessons Learned



- Teams Channel
- Staffing schedule
- Translation services for written material in 180 languages
- Partnerships with phlebotomy certification schools.
- Providing maps for staff for where to report/park.

# Successes



- Timely response
- Captured a large number of contacts by bringing services to them at the time it was needed.
- Expanded team.
- Increased community awareness of PH services.

# Future Goals

- Replicate services to address potential other communicable disease outbreaks e.g., local dengue.
- Tabletop exercise using FoPH team to train and practice acquired skills.
- Regular updates to maintain staffing competencies.
- Acquisition of additional equipment (e.g. mobile x-ray van).
- Continue partnerships with local businesses.



# Thank you!

*Hannah Edmondson, RN, PHN, MPH*  
Supervising Public Health Nurse  
Communicable Disease Program

**[hannah.edmondson@ventura.org](mailto:hannah.edmondson@ventura.org)**

*Eva Reeder, RN, BSN, PHN*  
Supervising Public Health Nurse  
TB Control Department Manager

**[eva.reeder@ventura.org](mailto:eva.reeder@ventura.org)**