

From Crisis Coordination to Community Infrastructure

Building Sustainable Public Information Networks
in Solano County

CHEAC Annual Conference • October 8, 2026 | 1:00–2:00 PM



**SOLANO
PUBLIC
HEALTH**



Vallejo
FLOOD & WASTEWATER DISTRICT



Solano County at a Glance



PEOPLE

450,000
population

Nearly ⅔
identify as Black,
Indigenous,
or people of color

18%
age 65+

ECONOMY & EDUCATION

\$94,930
median household income

55.4%
employment rate

1/3
bachelor’s degree or higher

HEALTH

77 years • 82
years
male • female life expectancy

Nearly 5 / 1,000
infant mortality
California: 4.1

>95%
are insured
California: 92.9%

SPIN's Vision, History, and Evolution



A progression from emergency-driven coordination to an established countywide network.

The Early Communications Landscape

2009 H1N1 PANDEMIC

The response placed several communications demands on Solano County at the same time.

Pediatric death



Heightened public concern and increased the need for clear public information.

School closures



Required timely information to reach families and education partners.

Vaccine events



Created another major point of public communication.

Unified messages + information sharing across agencies and jurisdictions

Launching SPIN

Solano Public Information Network (SPIN) was formed soon after H1N1.

SPIN included public information offices across the County.

SPIN was spearheaded by Solano County and partner agencies (Robin Cox, Bureau Chief for Health Promotion/Community Wellness).

Over time, SPIN was chaired by representatives from hospitals, school districts, and wastewater districts.

Tubbs Fire 2017

When Traditional Communication Channels Were Disrupted

REGIONAL FIRE

The Tubbs Fire affected Napa, Sonoma, and Solano counties.

WEBSITE DISRUPTION

Solano County lost access to its website and struggled to get information out.

NETWORK RESPONSE

SPIN members helped maintain communication by requesting updates to share on social media.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The experience informed quality improvement strategies for future communications.

Building a Stronger Communications Network

Solano Public Health coordinated SPIN meetings and trainings, particularly around emergency preparedness and Joint Information Center operations.

SPIN maintained a solid contact list across participating agencies.

Press releases could be shared across the group to support broader distribution.



Transmission of COVID-19 to Health Care Personnel During Exposures to a Hospitalized Patient — Solano County, California, February 2020

Weekly / April 17, 2020 / 69(15):472–476

On February 26, 2020, the first U.S. case of community-acquired coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was confirmed in a patient hospitalized in Solano County, California (1). The patient was initially evaluated at hospital A on February 15; at that



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I am a

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Contact:

Office of Public Affairs
(916) 440-7259

CDC Confirms Possible First Instance of COVID-19 Community Transmission in California

Date: February 26, 2020
Number: NR20-006
Contact: Corey Egel | 916.440.7259 | CDHPress@cdph.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO – The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today confirmed a possible first case of person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 in California in the general public. The individual is a resident of Solano



TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

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CALIFORNIA

First U.S. coronavirus case of unknown origin confirmed in Northern California, CDC says

By Darrell Smith and Cathie Anderson

SPIN During the Pandemic



In 2020, Solano County had one of the first identified COVID-19 cases in the United States.

SPIN shared press releases and supported joint press conferences.

After the shutdown, SPIN began meeting weekly and provided a venue for community questions.

SPIN provided reliable information and helped partners manage misinformation.

Partners amplified trusted messages, including reopening tiers and vaccine events.

2020 LNU Lightning Complex Fires



The LNU Lightning Complex Fire occurred August 17, 2020 in Napa, Solano, Lake and Sonoma counties during the first COVID-19 surge.

The fire was in two of the three major cities in Solano.

SPIN was a well-oiled machine by this point.

Held daily conference calls, provided maps of the fire/evacuation areas, and regularly provided SPIN the latest information.



The Need for a Coordinated Communications Network

Bridging Gaps in Traditional Communication Methods

Collaboration can fade after a crisis.

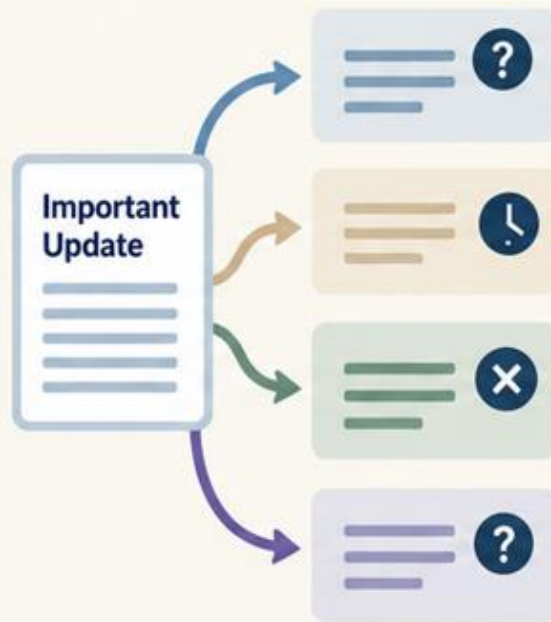
During an Emergency



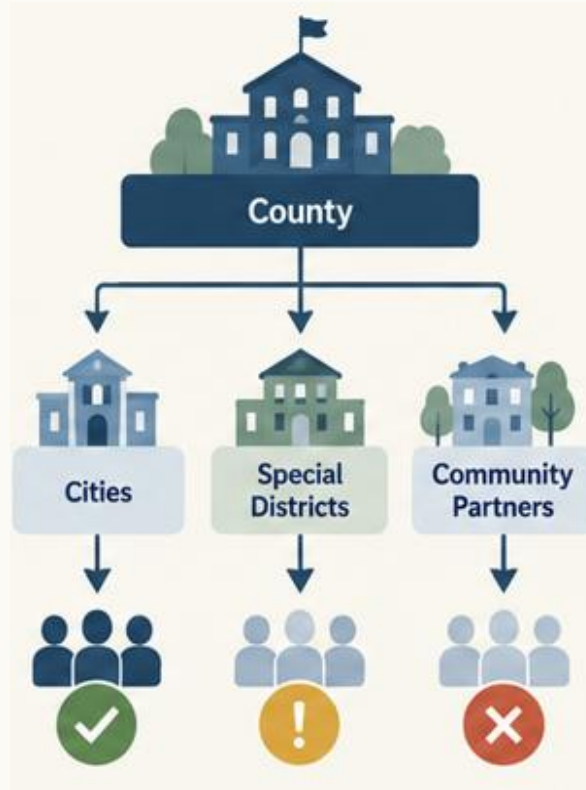
After the Crisis



Messaging can become fragmented, confusing or delayed.



Information does not always reach every level of the community.



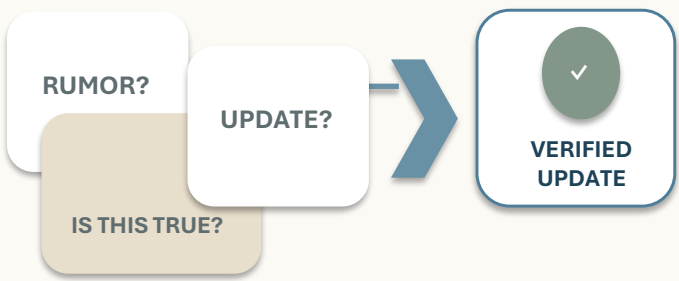
Formal communication channels can limit access to timely updates.



The Benefits of a More Connected Communication System

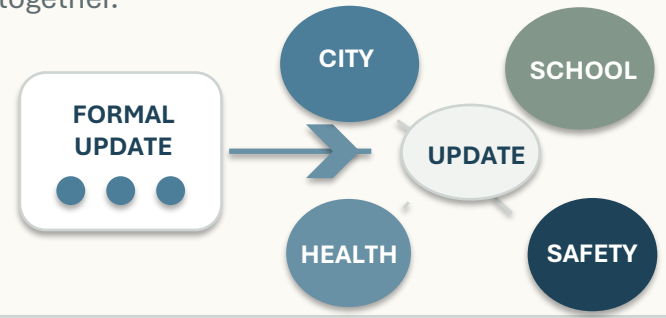
Rumor Management

Share “what we know today,” even as information evolves.



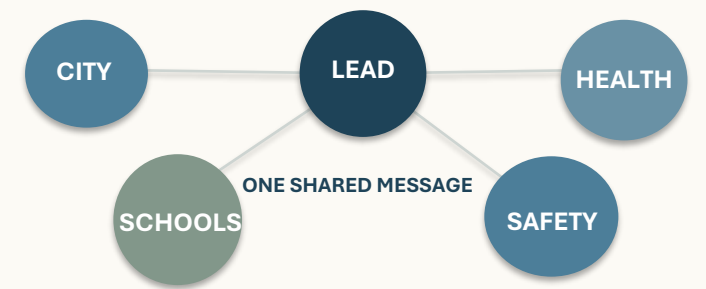
More Accessible Updates

Receive critical information beyond formal communication channels and expand on updates together.



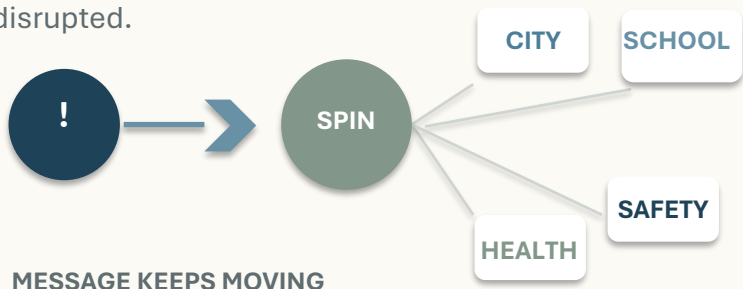
Unified Messaging & Clear Leads

Align messaging and identify the lead agency or communicator.



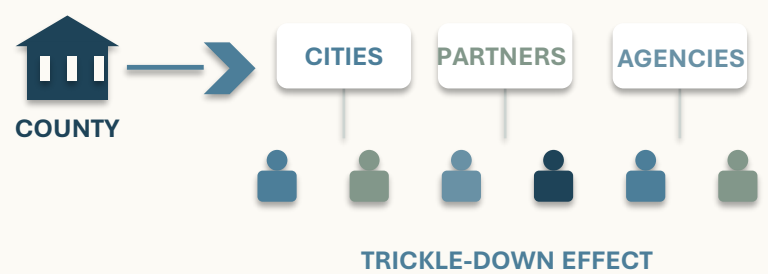
Rapid Mobilization & Communication Backup

Mobilize partners quickly and rely on partner channels when usual communication channels are disrupted.



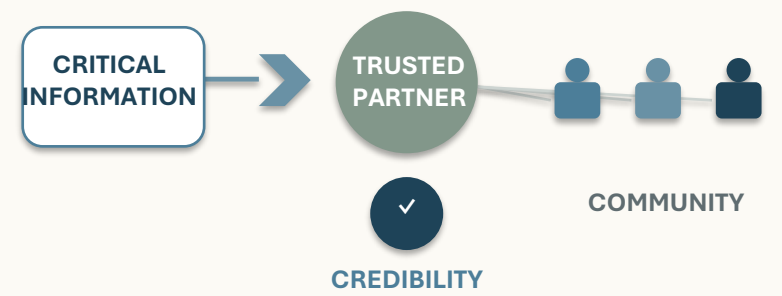
Cross-Jurisdictional Amplification

Create a trickle-down effect by carrying County-level messaging through City and partner channels.



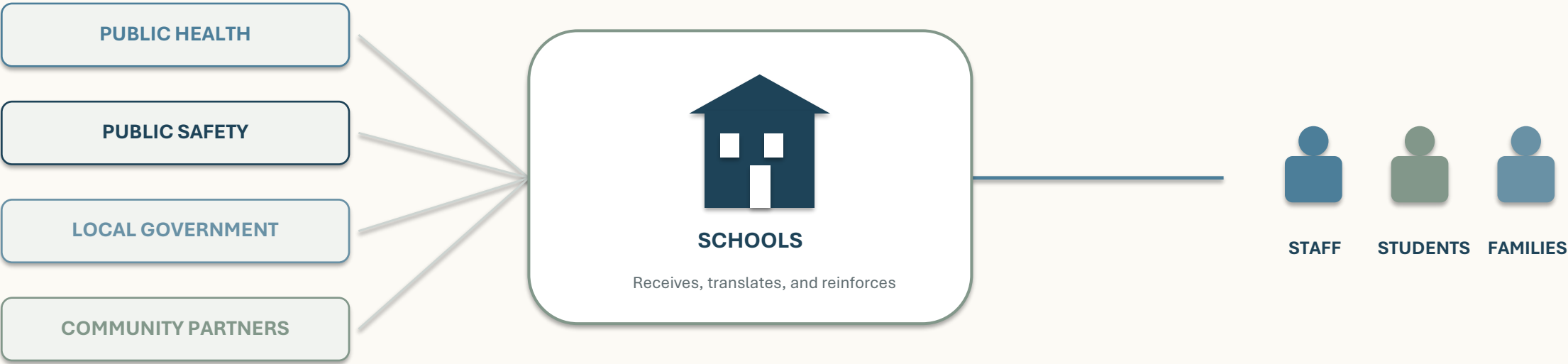
Strengthening Credibility Through Trusted Community Partners

Leverage partners with trusted community relationships to reinforce and share critical information.



Connecting Every Level of the Response

Solano County Office of Education example



Trusted Relationships

Builds relationships among public health, public safety, local government, schools, and community partners before a response is needed.

Clear Guidance for Schools

Helps schools quickly translate public health and emergency information into clear guidance for staff, students, and families.

Clear Roles & Channels

Clarifies who is leading the response, where information should come from, and which communication channels schools should use.

Verified Information

Reinforces sharing verified information through the lead agency's official channels to reduce confusion and maintain public trust.



SPIN in Practice: The Value to Members

Member Perspectives: What SPIN Provides



COMMUNICATION NETWORK

- ✓ Identify points of contact across agencies
- ✓ Clear communication pathways across agencies
- ✓ Collaboration between public and private partner organizations
- ✓ Consistent messaging and communication, particularly during emergencies



COLLABORATION & INFORMATION SHARING

- ✓ Reliable resource hub
- ✓ Shared strengths and resources
- ✓ Best-practice exchange
- ✓ Strengthens awareness across different agencies



MEETINGS & TRAINING

- ✓ Quarterly Meeting
- ✓ Free training for all members
- ✓ Increases communication capacity
- ✓ Improves skills during routine operations
- ✓ Builds readiness for crisis communication
- ✓ Supports consistent practices across member agencies

SPIN Membership in Action



Mission

We monitor infectious diseases through municipal wastewater systems to inform public health responses at a local, regional, and national level. Our goal is to show that a national wastewater monitoring system is a valuable part of our public health infrastructure, can inform public health responses, and will help us prepare for future pandemics.

WastewaterSCAN is based at Stanford University, in partnership with Emory University, and is funded by the Sergei Brin Family Foundation. Verily is our lab partner. We are committed to transparency, scientific rigor, and open science. We make our methods public and publish our research in scholarly journals to subject them to peer review.

Pathogens Currently Monitored:

- Influenza (Flu)
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
- SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
- Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)
- Norovirus GI
- Enterovirus D68
- Mpox
- Candidozyma auris
- Hepatitis A
- Measles
- West Nile
- Parvovirus
- Rotavirus



**WASTEWATER
SCAN**
Collect. Detect. Inform.



SPIN Membership in Action



Detection

Email
alert

Public health
notification

Provider
communication

Example 1:

January 13, 2026:

- **Positive measles detection in wastewater sample**

January 15, 2026

- **Received alert via email from the WastewaterSCAN team at Stanford**
- **Alerted Solano Public Health (PH) leadership and PIO distribution list**
- **Immediate response from the EMS Administrator and Acting PH Director, confirming receipt of this alert and one from CDPH; Working on communication with local health providers.**

WASTEWATER
SCAN
Collect. Detect. Inform.



Vallejo Wastewater has participated in WastewaterSCAN since September 2022, at no additional cost to residents.

SPIN Membership in Action

Example 2:

March 18, 2026

Article in the Vallejo Sun on high RSV and HMPV levels in Vallejo wastewater samples

March 19, 2026

Forwarded Article to Solano PH leadership and County PIO distribution list



Example 3:

July 25, 2026

Article in the Vallejo Times Herald on high COVID-19 levels in the Bay Area

July 27, 2026

Forwarded article to Solano PH leadership and County PIO distribution list; Informed Solano PH regarding monthly WastewaterSCAN meetings with Stanford University and Emory University; PH expressed interest in attending said meetings

COVID-19 levels run high in Bay Area wastewater, prompting calls for precautions

Hospitalization and deaths from COVID-19 infections are rarer, but public health officials warn those at higher risk



A Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is prepared in Oakland, Calif., on Thursday, March 11, 2021. (Ray Chavez/Bay Area News Group)

By GRANT STRONGER | gstronger@bayareanews.com | Bay Area News Group
PUBLISHED: July 25, 2026 at 11:14 AM PDT

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

- 1 Prep football preview: Junior-heavy Redhawks set to rely on defense
- 2 Solano County men arrested on child sexual abuse materials allegations
- 3 How I cut my auto insurance premiums by 23% in two minutes
- 4 He lives with his wife — and his husband, and his partner, in a 6-person polycube
- 5 They earn \$300,000 and pay \$1,800 in rent in the Bay Area. Why they can stay in affordable housing
- 6 Napa, Solano leaders urge standing up for unions in 'a battle for humanity' at annual Labor Day breakfast
- 7 Western Railway Museum to open BART rapid transit history center
- 8 Report: Nearly every form of crime in Vallejo dropping
- 9 Two lanes to be closed on Carquinez Bridge in Vallejo starting Tuesday
- 10 Vallejo responds to Grand Jury report on 911 calls

WASTEWATER
SCAN
Collect. Detect. Inform.



How SPIN Works:

Keeping the Network Connected



The SPIN Network

A countywide network connecting

- Cities and County agencies
- Public Health, first responders, and emergency personnel
- Hospitals and healthcare
- School districts
- Transportation and public works

100+
SPIN Members

**40+ partner
organizations**



Communication Tools

SPIN Distribution List

Broad reach and information distribution

Quarterly In-Person Meetings

Connection, questions, clarification, training, feedback, and relationship building

SPIN PIO Google Group

Two-way exchange and collaboration

Partner Distribution Systems

Extended reach and amplification through Alert Solano, Teletask, ParentSquare, and city newsletters



Quarterly Meetings



**Jurisdictional & Partner
Updates**

**Preparedness
Discussions & Feedback**

**Networking &
Relationship Building**

Skills-Based Training

20+ SKILLS-BASED TRAINING
TOPICS

Disaster Service Alerts
Digital Accessibility

JIC Operations
Standard Response
Protocol

GIS Mapping
Community Health Needs
Assessment

Coordinating Across the Network

OUR THREE-PRONGED COMMUNICATIONS APPROACH: AMPLIFY

1 PRESS RELEASE

 **SOLANO COUNTY** | Health & Social Services, Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2026

News Contacts:
Jayleen Richards, Public Health Administrator
(707) 784-8616 | JMRichards@SolanoCounty.gov
and SolanoPIO@SolanoCounty.gov

Bret Barner, Mosquito Abatement District Biologist
(707) 437-1116 | bbarner@solanomosquito.com

West Nile virus activity detected in Solano County

SOLANO COUNTY- The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Public Health Division, and the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) have confirmed that two mosquito pools the first mosquito samples to test positive for WNV in Solano County in 2026.

"This is an important reminder that mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile Virus are present in our area," said Dr. Cameron Kaiser, Acting Health Officer for the Solano County Health & Social Services, Public Health spending time outdoors, and reduce mosquitoes breeding where you live."

2 SOLANOCOUNTY.GOV WEBSITE

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Public Health Press Releases



Public Health Week 2025

The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Public Health division, is observing April 7-13, 2025, as National Public Health Week...

[Read More >](#)



West Nile virus activity detected in Solano County

The Solano County public health officials and the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District have announced the detection...

[Read More >](#)



Measles Cases on the Rise

With measles on the rise nationally, and recent cases in neighboring counties, Solano County has joined Health Officers...

[Read More >](#)



Grant Funding for Car Seat Safety Education Program

The Solano Department of Health and Social Services, Public Health division, is pleased to announce...

[Read More >](#)

3 SOCIAL MEDIA POST

 **solanopublichealth**



West Nile virus activity detected in Solano County

Mosquitoes collected on August 1, 2025 near the Birds Landing Area were confirmed to test positive for West Nile Virus.

Solano County residents are encouraged to take protective measures.

25 likes

solanopublichealth Solano County public health officials and the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District have announced the detection of West Nile virus in mosquitoes collected near the Birds Landing Area. Reduce your risk of contracting the virus — protect yourself and your family. Learn more at SolanoMosquito.com. #WestNileVirus #SolanoCounty

August 7, 2025

COORDINATE

Connect with the appropriate partners and jurisdictions and identify the lead agency or PIO.

ALIGN

Coordinate information and messaging across partners, including joint messaging or press releases when needed.

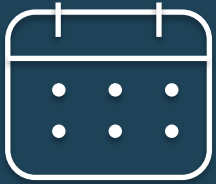
AMPLIFY

Leverage SPIN partners and their communication channels to extend the reach of our three-pronged communications approach.



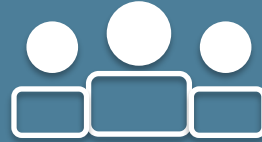
Strategies for Sustaining the Network

Engagement & Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration



STRUCTURE & CADENCE

Maintaining a consistent meeting frequency while intentionally rotating meeting locations across participating partner agencies.



SPIN STEERING COMMITTEE

Collaborative agenda development driven directly by committee members to guarantee meeting relevancy, active ownership, and shared leadership.



HOSPITALITY & INTERACTION

Providing catered meals and interactive tabletop exercises to transform routine meetings into engaging high-value networking opportunities.

Connecting Network Infrastructure to PHAB Accreditation



Standards & Protocols

A formalized division-wide communication plan and standardized messaging protocols directly fulfill core standards set by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) related to emergency communication and community engagement.

Internal & External Synergy

Framing SPIN's work through the lens of accreditation demonstrates a commitment to quality improvement, multi-agency alignment, and operational readiness across Solano County.

Questions? Discussion.



For additional questions, please contact us at

solanopio@solanocounty.gov

Thank You

Solano Public Information Network

Building lasting communications infrastructure through trusted partnerships that keep communities connected and informed.