

## WORKING TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE HEALTH

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) protects health, prevents disease and promotes health and well-being for all persons in Los Angeles County through a variety of innovative programs and services.



### DPH PROVIDES 24/7 PROTECTION AGAINST ILLNESS, EPIDEMICS AND HEALTH-RELATED EMERGENCIES

- DPH tracks and monitors infectious diseases within the County, in California, in the United States and around the world since such diseases have no boundaries.
- DPH led a County-wide interdepartmental taskforce focused on Ebola preparedness in LA County, and conducted timely outreach and education to empower residents with information about Ebola.
- DPH manages an electronic disease and laboratory reporting system, which provides early warnings of possible disease clusters or outbreaks—and even single cases of priority diseases or infections.
- DPH investigates reported diseases and conditions and, when appropriate, offers testing and treatment or vaccines to prevent more cases.
- DPH issues health alerts to doctors, veterinarians, hospitals and laboratories with critical information and instructions related to unusual health circumstances and potential health-related emergencies.
- DPH works with hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, ambulatory centers and other healthcare providers to prevent and control infections acquired in healthcare settings including those caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria
- DPH runs a state-of-the-art laboratory, which provides testing 24/7 to quickly address disease outbreaks.
- DPH gives vaccine to thousands of children and adults to protect against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- DPH has a comprehensive emergency plan that allows rapid deployment of staff to provide medication, vaccines and other resources to reduce disease and death caused by health-related emergencies.

- DPH collaborates with local community- and faith-based organizations to engage neighborhoods in preparedness planning.

### DPH ENSURES CONSUMER SAFETY

- DPH protects residents from contaminated and unsafe foods.
- DPH proactively contacts vendors across the County about recalled food items and sends inspectors out to ensure recalled products have been removed from store shelves.
- DPH empowers consumers with visible letter grades, based on the food handling and safety practices within the kitchen, for every restaurant.
- DPH investigates consumer complaints related to food items, restaurants, housing, noise and animal infestations.

### DPH IMPROVES COMMUNITY HEALTH

- DPH plans and implements projects designed to improve community health, often working with our community partners to address and overcome barriers to better health.
- DPH provided over 60,000 substance use disorder (SUD) treatment annual admissions and services through a network of community-based organizations.
- DPH provides user-friendly information about a wide range of health topics in several languages by way of press conferences, telephone hotlines, social media and a robust website.
- DPH helps low-income children and their families receive and retain health insurance coverage.
- DPH works with community partners to reduce infant mortality rates; special programs have resulted in fewer infant deaths within the most vulnerable groups.
- DPH helps young, low-income, first-time mothers by offering home visitation services to improve pregnancy outcomes and parental behaviors.
- DPH provides education on child passenger safety and distributes free and reduced-cost car seats to families in need.
- DPH collaborates with school districts, community-based organizations, parents and city officials to address the obesity epidemic.





- DPH supports the delivery of STD screening and treatment services to thousands of residents through a vast network of public health clinics, community-based organizations and school-based clinics.

### DPH ADVOCATES FOR BETTER OPTIONS, SAFER ENVIRONMENTS AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

- DPH collects and examines local health data and informs local leaders, decision makers and community advocates of findings with recommended actions for health improvement.
- DPH works with cities and other agencies to adopt smoke-free public space policies for areas, such as parks, beaches, outdoor dining, and multi-unit housing and policies designed to protect youth from access to all tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes.
- DPH helps communities improve access to playgrounds and open space at school locations after school hours for physical activity through “joint-use agreements.”
- DPH works with local school districts to improve the nutritional quality of school meals.
- DPH participates in the Parks After Dark Program, which provides recreational opportunities for high-risk youth and their families—part of the County’s Gang Violence Reduction Initiative.
- DPH helps low-income cities and communities develop and implement jurisdiction plans that promote walking and biking, such as Safe Routes to Schools plans and bicycle and pedestrian plans.
- DPH helps communities to increase access to affordable healthy foods and reduce promotion of unhealthy food and beverage options.
- DPH supports the delivery of lifesaving medical care and support services to over 10,000 low-income residents living with HIV/AIDS each year.

### HEALTH SUCCESSES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- DPH supported the delivery of more than 150,000 HIV tests in 2014, allowing residents to learn their status, access care (if needed) and interrupt the spread of HIV.
- DPH provided timely response to outbreaks and clusters of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, pertussis and meningococcal meningitis.

- DPH, with partners, has significantly reduced infant mortality rates to below the national goal level.
- DPH assisted 22,500 children and adults in securing healthcare insurance coverage in 2014
- DPH efforts have contributed to a significant decrease in smoking in Los Angeles County, which now has one of the lowest levels of smoking in California as well as the United States; 100% of the Los Angeles County coastline is now smoke-free and several cities have smoke-free outdoor areas, including parks, outdoor dining, and public events such as farmers markets.

### DPH IS RECOGNIZED AS A NATIONAL LEADER IN LOCAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

- DPH is the only public health department in the nation with an established, daily partnership with the FBI. This unique partnership requires high levels of security clearance and quality public health expertise to effectively support rapid assessment of potential health-related terrorist or criminal acts.
- DPH’s restaurant grading system has been adopted in cities across the U.S.
- DPH’s charge to mandate calorie labels on menus led to state laws.
- DPH received the second-largest competitive funding award from the federal government to expand and advance innovative projects aimed at reducing chronic diseases in Los Angeles County.

### DPH IS A VALUABLE ASSET TO ALL RESIDENTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The County’s public health staff are committed subject matter experts who are adept at disease prevention, disease control, health promotion, health advocacy and health improvement strategy. These public health professionals are prepared to address complex health challenges—and to seize opportunities that make a difference in health—for people, families and neighborhoods across LA County.

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