

# Public Health Investigation



Student Nurse Orientation



# Public Health Investigation (PHI) Responsibilities

- Mandated functions of Health Officer related to communicable disease intervention and control
- Enforcement of laws related to communicable disease control
- Remove threats to the public's health
- Locate cases and contacts to disease and refer for medical care
- Educate clients
- Motivate compliance



# PHIs in Los Angeles County

- Community & Field Services
  - (8) Service Planning Areas
    - STD Referrals
    - TB Referrals
    - ACD Referrals
    - Legal Order Processing
    - Surveillance/Monitoring
    - STD Caseload
    - Staff STD Clinic



# Areas of PHI Practice

- PHI Administration
- Commercial Sex Venue Inspections
- Marine Biotoxin Monitoring
- Custodian of Records Function
- Homebirth Verifications



# Areas of PHI Practice

- Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS  
Custody Divisions and STD Field Services  
HIV Epidemiology Program
- Tuberculosis Control Program
- Acute Communicable Diseases
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Program
- Response to Public Health Emergencies



# STD and HIV/AIDS

- Locate, educate, and refer patients for exam and treatment
- Elicit sex partners and clusters
- Verify treatment of sex partners
- Client education
- HIV pre/post test counseling



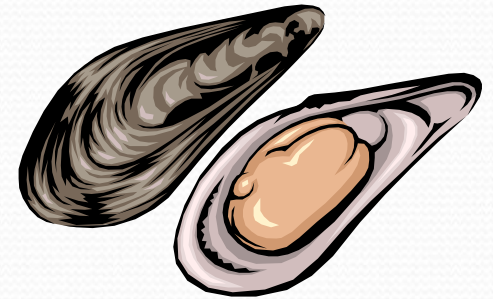
# Commercial Sex Venue Inspections (aka: Bathhouses)

- Los Angeles County issues health permits to CSVs per county ordinance.
- Monitor for unsafe sexual practices as stated in the county ordinance.
- Increase the awareness of behaviors that increase the risks of contracting STD/HIV.



# Marine Biotoxin Monitoring

- Annual Mussel Quarantine
- Water Column Sampling
- Bait Shop Inspections





# Custodian of Records

- Respond to Public Health Records Requests
- Respond to Subpoena duces tecum
- Issues Port of Entry letters for body shipments



# Homebirth Verification

- Investigate births that occur outside of the hospital to facilitate issuance of a birth certificate.
- Must be done within the one year of the child's birth



# PHI Response to Public Health Emergencies

- Natural Disasters
- Naturally Occurring Disease Outbreaks

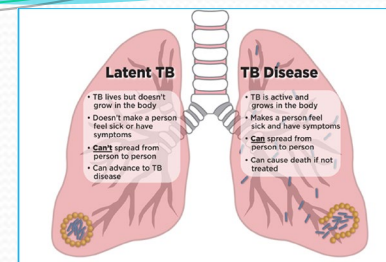


# PHI Bioterrorism Responsibilities

- Case Education and Interview
- Contact Elicitation and Identification
- Contact Tracing and Referral
- Contact Surveillance
- Isolation and Quarantine
- Compliance Monitoring
- Violations



# TB Intervention



- Elicit cooperation of non-compliant patients
- Locate patients lost to follow-up
- Investigative work needed to locate potentially exposed persons
- Compel compliance through the Legal Order process



# ACD Intervention

- Elicit cooperation of non-compliant patients
- Locate patients lost to follow-up
- Investigative work needed to locate potentially exposed persons
- Enforcement authority of the Health Officer necessary to achieve compliance
- Outbreaks





# How Does PHI Get Assigned Work?



# Positive Labs

- PMD (clinics, hospitals, or labs) by law must report positive labs on STD & Communicable diseases to the local health department
- The report is Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR)
- PHIs are assigned HDFUs, Interview Records, or Field Records from Casewatch system





# PHI and Nursing Synergy

## REFERRAL CRITERIA

- Non-compliant patients
- Lost to follow-up patients
- Legal Intervention

## REFERRAL PROCESS

- PHN exhausts efforts
- PHNS referral to SPHI
- PHI exhausts efforts to locate or gain compliance
- PHN oversight *vs.* Legal Order



# Public Health Investigation Administration

SUITE 120-04  
5555 FERGUSON DRIVE  
COMMERCE, CA 90022  
PHONE: (323) 890-7801

