

## Public Health Investigation

### Student Nurse Orientation



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## 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



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## Areas of PHI Practice

- Commercial Sex Venue Inspections
- Marine Biotxin Monitoring
- Custodian of Records Function
- Homebirth Verifications



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## Areas of PHI Practice

- Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis
- Acute Communicable Diseases
- Response to public health emergencies



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## PHIs in Los Angeles County

- PHI Administration
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Program
  - Custody Divisions and STD Field Services
- Tuberculosis Control Program
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Program
- HIV Epidemiology Program



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## PHIs in Los Angeles County

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



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## 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



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## PHI Response to Public Health Emergencies

- Natural Disasters
- Naturally Occurring Disease Outbreaks



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## PHI Bioterrorism Responsibilities

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



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## 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.



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## Marine Biotoxin Monitoring

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



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## Custodian of Records

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



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## Homebirth Verification

- Investigate births that occur outside of the hospital to facilitate issuance of a birth certificate.



## 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



## 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



## Public Health Investigation Administration

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