



**SAN MATEO
COUNTY HEALTH**
All together better.

THE ROLE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

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SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

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DO WE NEED A HEALTH OFFICER?

- California thinks so!
- Each county is mandated to “take measures as may be necessary to preserve and protect the public health,” and the health officer is a key part of this duty.
- California law requires each county to appoint a health officer
 - Must be a physician
 - Can be appointed to direct the local health department, but this is not necessary
 - If they do not direct the department, the Board of Supervisors is required to ensure that the health officer has sufficient authority and resources, and that the organizational structure does not impede the health officer from carrying out their duties
 - After appointing a health officer, the county must inform California Dept. of Public Health (CDPH) of the appointment
- California law gives local health officers at least 171 distinct duties and grants broad authority to take action to prevent disease
- Currently: 61 local health officers (58 counties and 3 cities)

**HEALTH OFFICER ROLE :
PROTECT AND ADVANCE
THE HEALTH OF SAN MATEO
COUNTY**

DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- Health surveillance
 - Assess and report on the health status of the community, using multiple epidemiological survey and statistical methods
- Advocates for effective disease prevention and health programs and makes recommendations to address the social determinants of health
 - Promotes proactive measures and monitors the implementation of initiatives to improve community health
- Take all measures that may be necessary to prevent and control the spread of disease
- Consult with physicians in the diagnosis, investigation, and treatment of communicable diseases
- Direct the inspection, examination, isolation, quarantine, and decontamination of persons, places, and things within the County as necessary to protect the public's health
- Provide public health consultation and direction to community agencies such as the Humane Society on animal control issues

DEVELOPING AND ENFORCING HEALTH ORDERS AND POLICIES

- Enforce local health orders and ordinances, and rules prescribed by the State Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Interprets and disseminates policies, laws, regulations and state and federal directives regarding medical and public health issues and enforces health and safety codes.
- Responsible for public health policy development and community health planning.
- Assist with writing local ordinances and state law

PREPARING FOR AND RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

- Assist in planning, organizing, and coordinating all-hazard disaster preparedness and response, for example, those related to bioterrorism or pandemic influenza
- Declare local emergencies, as indicated
- Act as the medical advisor and coordinator in the event of a county disaster.
- Act as spokesperson to media and public during times of crisis

EDUCATION AND PLANNING

- Provides community outreach and preemptive health education to community organizations and the general public on critical health issues
- Conduct meetings, workshops and presentations on health topics
- Acts as liaison and exchanges information with public and private health services/programs, hospital and medical associations, state and national public health organizations, advocacy organizations, volunteer groups, law enforcement agencies, emergency medical and disaster service providers and community groups
- Provides technical consultation to all segments of the community in the development and implementation of interventions to reduce excess morbidity and mortality in the health jurisdiction



QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION?



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