

County of Santa Clara
Public Health Department



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Santa Clara County Public Health Department
Earns Public Health Emergency Preparedness Recognition
Department is One of 14 Agencies Honored as "Public Health Ready"

SAN JOSE, CA – As local public health agencies nationwide work to protect the public from bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has recognized the Santa Clara County Public Health Department for its ability to respond to public health emergencies. The Santa Clara County Public Health Department was one of 14 local public health agencies recognized nationwide.

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD) underwent reviews conducted by Project Public Health Ready, a unique partnership program between NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“We are proud to have been recognized by Project Public Health Ready for our level of preparedness,” said the director of the SCCPHD, Gualdalupe Olivas, PhD. “We continue to improve our ability to quickly and effectively respond to any public health crisis in Santa Clara County.”

To gain recognition, Project Public Health Ready required the Santa Clara County Public Health Department to achieve goals in three key areas: preparedness planning; individual worker competence; and demonstration of readiness through drills and exercises. The recognition confirms that the SCCPHD has an emergency response plan in place, the plan is appropriately connected to other emergency response plans, agency staff members are trained, and the plan is exercised and used during public health and other community emergencies. Additionally, agencies selected this year met a new standard requiring that emergency preparedness plans emphasize an all-hazards approach, instead of focusing on a single event or emergency.

Other agencies recognized this year are:

Okeechobee County Health Department — Okeechobee, FL
 Panhandle Health District — Coeur D'Alene, ID
 North Central District Health Department — Lewiston, ID
 Southwest District Health Department — Caldwell, ID
 Central District Health Department — Boise, ID
 South Central District Health Department — Twin Falls, ID
 Southeast District Health Department — Pocatello, ID
 District Seven Health Department — Idaho Falls, ID
 Boston Public Health Commission — Boston, MA
 Gallatin City-County Health Department — Bozeman, MT
 Metropolitan Public Health Department of Nashville and Davidson County — Nashville, TN
 Arlington County Public Health Division — Arlington, VA
 Public Health-Seattle & King County — Seattle, WA
 Wellesley Health Department — Wellesley, MA

“NACCHO commends Santa Clara County Public Health Department for being a model of public health emergency preparedness,” said Patrick Libbey, executive director of NACCHO. “The public health system still has work to do when it comes to preparedness, but we are making great strides thanks to the good work of local public health agencies.”

Local public health agencies recognized underwent an evaluation process that included reviews by three members of the Project Public Health Ready Review Council. The Council consists of local health officials and organizational liaisons from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the Association of Schools of Public Health, the National Association for Local Boards of Health, the National Environmental Health Association, and the National Public Health Leadership Development Network.

The Santa Clara County Public Department works to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent the spread of disease and respond to daily medical emergencies as well as large-scale disasters. As part of the work, the Public Health Department serves Santa Clara County residents through a wide range of health-related programs. In all these efforts, the Public Health Department is dedicated to the overall health and well being of the individuals and communities we serve. For more information about the Santa Clara County Public Health Department visit www.sccphd.org.

For more information on all Project Public Health Ready sites and tools and resources they have developed, go to <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/pphr.cfm>.

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