

# INTRODUCTION

---

## Acute Communicable Disease Control Program

The Medical Director of Public Health and the Chief of **Acute Communicable Diseases Control Program** (ACDC) are responsible for setting policies which address transmission of acute communicable diseases in the County of Los Angeles.

The mission of ACDC is to prevent and control the spread of communicable disease in Los Angeles County. ACDC is responsible for epidemiology and control of reportable communicable diseases not managed by the other Disease Control Programs (i.e., vaccine preventable diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and tuberculosis). ACDC conducts epidemiologic investigations of outbreaks and provides recommendations for control measures. Special studies and projects are also conducted, often in collaboration with other Department of Public Health Programs, counties, and state or federal agencies.

## Veterinary Public Health Program

The **Veterinary Public Health Program** has responsibility for animal disease surveillance and outbreak investigations; and animal bites and rabies control. See the policy manuals of the other Disease Control Programs for their mission statements and scope of authority.

## Public Health Laboratory

The **Public Health Laboratory** provides official laboratory support for communicable disease investigations and state-mandated bacteriologic clearance requirements.

## Community Health Services Division

Within the **Community Health Services Division**, several disciplines have responsibility for activities relating to communicable disease control.

- **Medical Directors** are physicians responsible for carrying out health officer legal functions within specific Service Planning Areas (SPAs) composed of one or more public health districts. The term *SPA Medical Director* as used in this manual means any physician authorized to act in the capacity of the Health Officer. Activities include:
  - review of individual epidemiologic case investigations performed by district staff under their direction;
  - leading the investigation of outbreaks where district staff have prime responsibility, and consulting with ACDC as required;
  - determination of the need to remove from work any person in a sensitive occupation or situation;
  - determination of the need for prophylaxis because of exposure to communicable diseases, and prescribing that treatment if so requested by the exposed individual; and
  - approval of legal orders when individuals do not voluntarily comply with orders of the Health Officer.
- **Public Health Nurses (PHN)** are responsible for the epidemiologic investigation of certain reportable diseases and outbreaks under the guidelines established by ACDC and the supervision of the Medical Directors.
- **Public Health Investigation (PHI)** is the Custodian of Records for Public Health and is responsible for various legal functions including processing and carrying out of subpoenas and legal orders. PHI also assists in the location of patients not found through routine methods.

# INTRODUCTION

---

## Environmental Health Division

Within the **Environmental Health Division** several bureaus have programs with responsibility for activities affecting communicable disease control.

- **The Bureau of District Environmental Services** performs routine inspections of retail food facilities and housing, and responds to a variety of citizen complaints related to environmental health.
- The **Bureau of Environmental Protection** provides services that are concerned with the quality of the potable water supply and any contamination or pollution that might affect it, groundwater protection through the proper design, engineering, and construction of on-site sewage treatment systems and wells that serve private and public water supplies, recreational water safety, land use practices, rural sanitation and recreation, solid waste management, indoor air quality, residential mold problems, and radiological health and safety.
- The **Bureau of Consumer Protection** performs several surveillance, inspection, and remediation activities. Among them are:
  - The **Vector Management Program** conducts rodent evaluation and suppression activities and inspects licensed animal premises. It is also responsible for surveillance and early detection of diseases carried by fleas, flies, ticks, and other vectors. Arthropod identification and control information are available to the public.
  - The **Wholesale Food and Safety Program** is responsible for inspecting wholesale food preparation facilities, caterers, warehouses, vending machines, motion picture catering vehicles, in-plant feeding facilities, food demonstrators, and soft serve frozen dessert sales. It participates in mandated food recall activities and emergency food salvage investigations, and also takes the lead in the investigation of complaints of foodborne illness associated with the consumption of commercially prepared foods.
  - The **Vehicle Inspection Program** is responsible for the inspection and code enforcement of various types of food vehicles including catering trucks, ice cream trucks, carts, and the food establishments associated with servicing these vehicles. The Vehicle Inspection Program is also the lead program in inspecting and investigating unlicensed street vending of food.

## Health Facilities Inspection Division

The **Health Facilities Inspection Division** is responsible for the licensure and inspection of all non-county operated health facilities in Los Angeles County. It enforces Title 22 of the *California Code of Regulations* as well as federal Medicaid and Medicare regulations. Health Facilities Evaluators may be called upon to assist with the investigation of suspected outbreaks in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and any other health care facility. Health Facilities Inspection Division should be contacted if enforcement action needs to be taken against a health facility.

## Administrative Officer of the Day (AOD)

Disease Control Programs staff may be reached directly during routine business hours. After working hours and on weekends and holidays, the **Administrative Officer of the Day (AOD)** on call can be reached through the County Operator. The AOD is a public health physician assigned according to a schedule maintained by the Chief of ACDC. Additionally, there is a call schedule for other disciplines, including selected Environmental Health Specialists, Service Planning Area (SPA) Directors, Medical Directors, Public Health Nursing, and Public Health Investigation (including Tuberculosis PHI).