

Public Health Investigation

Student Nurse Orientation



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Objectives

- Describe PHI responsibilities and functions
- Describe the Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Program
- Describe the relationship between PHI and Nursing



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Public Health Investigation

- Mission:
 - To safeguard the public's health through mandated disease interventions and enforcement of public health laws
- Vision:
 - Reduced rates of communicable disease in Los Angeles County



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PHIs in Los Angeles County

- PHI Administration
 - Community Health Services
 - 8 Service Planning Areas
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Program
 - Custody Division
 - STD Field Services
- Tuberculosis Control Program
- HIV Epidemiology Program
- Alcohol and Drug Program



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PHI Responsibilities

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



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Areas of PHI Practice

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



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Areas of PHI Practice

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



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STD and HIV/AIDS

- Staff STD Clinics
- Client Education
- HIV pre/post test counseling
- Elicit contacts (clinic and private patients)
- Locate, educate and refer patients and their contacts for medical care
- Verify treatment of contacts



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TB Intervention

- Locate patients lost to follow up
- Non-compliant patients
- Enforcement through the Legal Order process



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ACD Intervention

- Recalcitrant Patients
- Patients lost to follow up jeopardizes the public health
- Investigative work needed to locate potentially exposed persons
- Enforcement authority of the Health Officer necessary to achieve compliance
- Outbreaks



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Response To Public Health Emergencies

- Bioterrorism
- Naturally Occurring Disease Outbreaks
- Natural Disasters



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PHI Bioterrorism Responsibilities

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



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Commercial Sex Venues Inspections

- PHI issues health permits for CSV in compliance with the county ordinance.
- The purpose is to increase the awareness of behaviors that increase the risks of contracting STDs and HIV/AIDS.
- Monitor for unsafe sexual practices as stated in the county ordinance.



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Marine Biotoxin Monitoring

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



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Homebirth Verification

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



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Custodian of Records

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



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PHI and Nursing Working Together

- Non-compliant patients
- Patients are lost to follow-up
- Legal Orders



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Public Health Investigation

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