



Public Health Health Equity

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CBO Collaborative Meeting Summary

September 02, 2025

Purpose

To enhance outreach and promotion efforts throughout the County by fostering collaboration with community-based partners and trusted messengers.

Public Health Officer Update

Speaker: Dr. Sharon Wang, EquityInAction@dph.sbcounty.gov

Valley Fever

- Valley Fever is caused by a fungus that grows in dirt/soil. Spores become airborne when soil or dust is disturbed by wind or activities such as digging, leading to inhalation of the spores.
- The fungus primarily infects the lungs but can spread to other parts of the body.
- Valley Fever is a significant cause of pneumonia and lung infections; raising awareness is critical as pneumonia cases are on the rise.
- Symptoms may include fatigue, cough, shortness of breath, fever, night sweats, muscle or joint pain, chest pain, weight loss, and rash.
- The incubation period typically ranges from 2 to 3 weeks after exposure.
- If symptoms persist beyond one week, consult your healthcare provider.
- Diagnosis is often made via chest X-ray, as the infection usually starts in the lungs and may show signs consistent with pneumonia.
- Mild cases often resolve without treatment; however, in some instances, the infection can spread to other organs.
- **At-Risk Populations:**
 - Activities: Outdoor work or recreation in dusty environments, living or working near disturbed soil, construction, farming, military duties, archaeology, and firefighting.
 - Individuals: Adults over 60, Black or Filipino individuals, pregnant women, people with weakened immune systems, and those with diabetes
- **Prevention:** Minimize exposure by staying indoors during dust storms, keeping windows and doors closed, using air filtration systems, setting vehicle air conditioning to "recirculate" in dusty areas, avoiding gardening or soil contact during windy conditions, and wetting soil before digging to reduce dust.

San Bernardino Countywide Vision

Community Vital Signs, Nicolette-Ashley Carlos, Nicolette-Ashley.Carlos@dph.sbcounty.gov

- **Vision Statement:** We envision a county where a commitment to optimizing health and wellness is embedded in all decisions by residents, organizations, and government.

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- Full San Bernardino Countywide Vision Statement available at: [CAO Vision – San Bernardino CountyWide Vision](#)
- **Community Vital Signs (CVS)** advances the County's wellness goals through cross-sector collaboration aligned with the San Bernardino County Community Transformation Plan.
- In the recent implementation committee meeting, CVS shared progress on the Transformation Plan and highlighted partner contributions since June 2024.
- CVS also reported updates on two Behavioral Health Subcommittees, co-led by the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools and Kaiser Permanente.
- General meetings are now held quarterly; the next meeting is scheduled for December 9th.
- CVS will host 10 community forums between November 2025 and May 2026, aimed at engaging special populations, fostering transparency, participation, and gathering personal experiences related to health impacts.
- If you are interested in co-hosting a Community Health Forum or promoting them to your community, fill out this interest form: [Community Forum Partner Interest Survey](#)

Community Health Priorities

- Behavioral Health: Improve mental health and reduce substance misuse in San Bernardino County
- Injury and Violence Prevention: Decrease incidences of violence in San Bernardino County
- Chronic Disease: Decrease morbidity and mortality rates for chronic diseases in San Bernardino County

Get Involved

To join a workgroup or implementation committee, contact: Dori.Baeza@dph.sbcounty.gov
To learn more, visit: [Community Vital Signs Initiative](#)

Public Health Program Updates

Preparedness and Response Program, Ashley Congjuico, Ashley.Congjuico@dph.sbcounty.gov

- The Preparedness and Response Program (PRP) recently highlighted National Preparedness Month to raise awareness.
- PRP's goal is to coordinate response efforts with emergency responders and public health agencies to address the needs of San Bernardino County residents during disasters.
- A public health emergency is any situation posing an immediate risk to population health that requires urgent action to prevent illness, injury, or death. Examples include:
 - Pandemic influenza or disease outbreaks
 - Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive terrorism
 - Hazardous materials release
 - Natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods causing water contamination or food spoilage
 - Wildfires producing smoke and ash leading to respiratory issues
 - Extreme weather events including heat, cold, high winds, and storms
- PRP has supported the community through initiatives like water distribution during shortages, providing wood during storms, animal sheltering during wildfires, and repatriation efforts during disease outbreaks.
- Key preparedness tips from PRP:
 - Understand potential local emergencies
 - Develop an emergency communication plan
 - Assemble and regularly update an emergency kit
 - Stay informed by signing up for emergency notifications
- Opportunities to partner with PRP include:

- Enhancing pandemic planning for clinics by contacting David Yleah, Pandemic Influenza Coordinator, at David.Yleah@dph.sbcounty.gov
- Register for PRP's next Quarterly Partnership Meeting happening on Wednesday October 8, 2025 from 9:30am – 12:30pm at Mountain Community Hospital, [RSVP for the PRP Partnership Meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2025](#)
- For training and exercise information, contact prp@dph.sbcounty.gov

Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

Project Fighting Chance, Ian Franklin, boxing@projectfightingchance.org

- Project Fighting Chance engages youth through physical activity, providing boxing coaching and mentorship.
- The program addresses bullying by teaching those who bully how to manage anger and those who are bullied how to build resilience and strength.
- Ian Franklin, a coach at the program, shared his personal journey of healing and anger management.
- Within their organization, boxing has proven therapeutic benefits within the program, helping participants manage stress, trauma, frustration, fear, and anger.
- For more information visit: <https://www.projectfightingchance.org/>

CBO Business

Speaker: Karen Rodriguez, EquityInAction@dph.sbcounty.gov

October Learning Topic Poll:

1. Alzheimer's Awareness
2. Epilepsy Awareness
3. Homecare/Hospice Awareness

Poll Results – Alzheimer's Awareness

Reminder: The topics listed above are observances for November. We present these topics a month in advance, so you have time to prepare for sharing information or hosting events during the observance month.

We encourage you to fill out the survey — All feedback will help us to better support our community.
[CBO Collaborative Feedback](#)

Community Partner Roundtable

- **Institute for Public Strategies** is hosting a health and wellness youth workshop on October 4th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the YMCA of The East Valley, Lossett Room. Activities will include interactive sessions, a sound bowl experience, and presentations. For more information, contact: evprevention@publicstrategies.org
- **Project Fighting Chance** has re-opened their services for youth after school. They provide boxing, fitness, arts, enrichment, and social emotional needs. Tours of the facility are also available upon request. Learn more at projectfightingchance.org
- **San Bernardino County Master Gardeners** will begin their master gardener trainings beginning in October. Anyone in SBC is eligible to join and there is a "no questions asked" fee waiver available. For more information contact: magoneill@ucanr.edu

- **San Bernardino County, Children's Network** will be hosting their annual conference on October 15 – 16, 2025 at the Ontario Convention Center. They will be offering multiple workshops and will have CE credits available for LCSW's and LMFT's
Register here: [#hss.sbcounty.gov/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=880J58#](https://sbcounty.gov/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=880J58)
- **Childcare Resource Center** launched the Child Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, providing free mental health consultations, including five sessions and SOS support for parents concerned about their child's behavior or development.
Request services here: [Request for Services/Solicitud de servicios: \(all fields required\)](#)

The next meeting will be on

Tuesday, October 7th

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Via Zoom: [CBO Collaborative Meeting Link - Zoom](#)