



A Prepared and Resilient County

Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Hospital Preparedness Program (PHEP & HPP) -

In January 2022, in cooperation with the state COVID response team, PHEP took delivery of 68,000 individual COVID tests which were distributed to Mendocino County clinics and skilled nursing facilities to boost testing capacity during the Delta surge. PHEP oversaw the distribution of over 26,000 over-the-counter COVID tests for the general public- 17,000 of them since October. PHEP also oversaw the distribution of over 75,000 pieces of Personal Protective Equipment to Mendocino County healthcare facilities and dialysis centers in support of COVID safety for staff and patients. In March, PHEP initiated the transition from the COVID response to recovery from the pandemic. The Disaster Healthcare Coalition resumed regular meetings, adopted new Bylaws and elected a new Steering Committee. In October, PHEP took delivery of specialized equipment order to augment the county's clinics' capacity to treat a large number of patients in the event of a disaster. The plan for this equipment was developed in cooperation with the Disaster Healthcare Coalition, using evidence-based analysis of known strengths and weaknesses in patient care capacity. Grant funding was used to purchase specialized treatment modules to expand existing capacity to treat children and persons with burn and traumatic injury. These modules are placed in mobile units and deployed to areas around the county that traditionally have long wait times for transport to a hospital. PHEP supported (or currently supports) the Public Health responses to Mpx, COVID, Flu/RSV, the Labor Day Heat event, the cold weather event in November, and the Fort Bragg communication outage in May. In addition, PHEP conducted two county-wide redundant communications drills using HAM Radio operations, supported 9 Adventist Health hospital drills by providing technical assistance and subject matter expertise. PHEP partners with North Coast Opportunities (NCO) to support the Disaster Healthcare Volunteer (DHV) Network in Mendocino County. These volunteers have been linchpins in the COVID response, clocking over 2000 collective hours of service at vaccine and testing clinics throughout the county. Recruiting efforts added a dozen new members, including dentists, a veterinarian on the Coast and three licensed Mental/Behavioral health counselors. Mendocino County's DHV was featured in the State EMSA Summer 2022 newsletter.

Communicable Disease (CD) –

Includes case and close contact investigation of Title 17 Communicable Diseases. The CD team works to protect our community from further spread of bacterial, viral, and vector-borne diseases. During the 2022 annual year, staff received Disease Intervention and Field Education from the CDPH for investigation of cases and close contacts for Syphilis. Additionally, staff consulted with clinics to manage Avian Flu, Lyme Disease, and other diseases. In January 2022, Public Health established the COVID-19 Call Center. The call center expanded its scope in June 2022 and is now the Public Health Call Center. Staff respond to inquiries related to COVID-19, MPX, Flu other communicable diseases, vital statistics, and other public health related questions. We also help callers find the correct contact information for other county departments.