

What is public health?

Alameda County Public Health Department

Simply defined, public health refers to the health of individuals and communities. The Public Health profession uses science, data and education to promote health lifestyles, healthy communities, and prevent disease and injury.

What does the Alameda County Public Health Department do?

The mission of the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) is to work in partnership with the community, other government agencies, organizations, and businesses to ensure optimal health and well-being of all people. In order to accomplish this mission, ACPHD:

- **Protects residents from everyday and extreme health threats**, including immunizations, emergency preparedness, disease tracking—ACPHD minimizes health risks that threaten Alameda County.
- **Educates residents about health issues** by providing residents with health education about nutrition, STD prevention, and smoking cessation--ACPHD ensures that residents have the knowledge they need to make healthy decisions.
- **Identifies healthy solutions**, from preventative care to services to manage chronic and infectious diseases—ACPHD helps residents maintain good health and control disease.
- **Advances community health** by developing and advocating for policies that address existing and emerging health issues, and enforces laws intended to protect community health.

How does ACPHD address health equity?

At Alameda County Public Health Department, we have developed a strategic plan that will guide us toward achieving health equity. But we can not accomplish this on our own.

We believe that informed public health agencies and their constituencies must be committed to a broad array of activities to change the economic, social, physical, and service conditions that will lead to the improved health and well-being of our residents and the elimination of health inequities.

We are striving to improve our ability to effectively partner with community to achieve health equity. We are also shifting our programs and resources to support activities that will eliminate health inequities. **These goals are captured in 6 directions of the ACPHD Strategic Plan:**

1. Transform our organizational culture and align our daily work to achieve health equity.
2. Enhance Public Health Communications internally and externally.
3. Ensure organizational accountability through measurable outcomes and community involvement.
4. Support the development of a productive, creative and accountable workforce.
5. Advocate for policies that address social conditions impacting health.
6. Cultivate and expand partnerships that are community-driven and innovative.

