

BOARD LETTER : UPDATE ON TASK FORCE OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO EXPANDING MOBILIZATION AGAINST THE TIJUANA RIVER SEWAGE CRISIS.

Mark Beatty, M.D., Medical Consultant
Epidemiology and Immunizations Services Branch
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Sewage Is Harmful To Health.

The Broken Sewage Infrastructure Is Diminishing The Quality Of Life For South Region Residents.



Ongoing County Public Health Surveillance



- **Reportable Disease**

- Case counts for select gastrointestinal reportable conditions



- **Gastrointestinal Syndromic Surveillance Data**

- Emergency department data for specific GI symptoms



- **Asthma and COPD Syndromic Surveillance Data (New!)**

- Emergency Department data for asthma and COPD



Expanding Mobilization Tijuana River Sewage Overview



- Summarize ongoing County surveillance activities
- Review seven Board recommendations
- Provide update on responses to these Board recommendations



Recommendation 1



Supporting the Task Force in launching a Community Health Survey, dissemination, and data analysis

- Tijuana River Pollution Task Force is collaboration between local government, community members, medical providers, and academic institutions
- Attended one Task Force meeting to date
- Provided input on *Healthy Water Healthy Community Survey*
- Survey dissemination by SDSU is pending

Recommendation 2



Development of a Tijuana River Public Health Dashboard

- Develop of single website, or landing page, linking to other websites to capture full scope of information, data, and resources related to Tijuana River Sewage crisis
- SDSU is exploring options to host the landing page
- Continue *Surveillance Bulletin: South Region Illness Concerns*, updated weekly, the County's "go-to" source of ongoing disease surveillance data

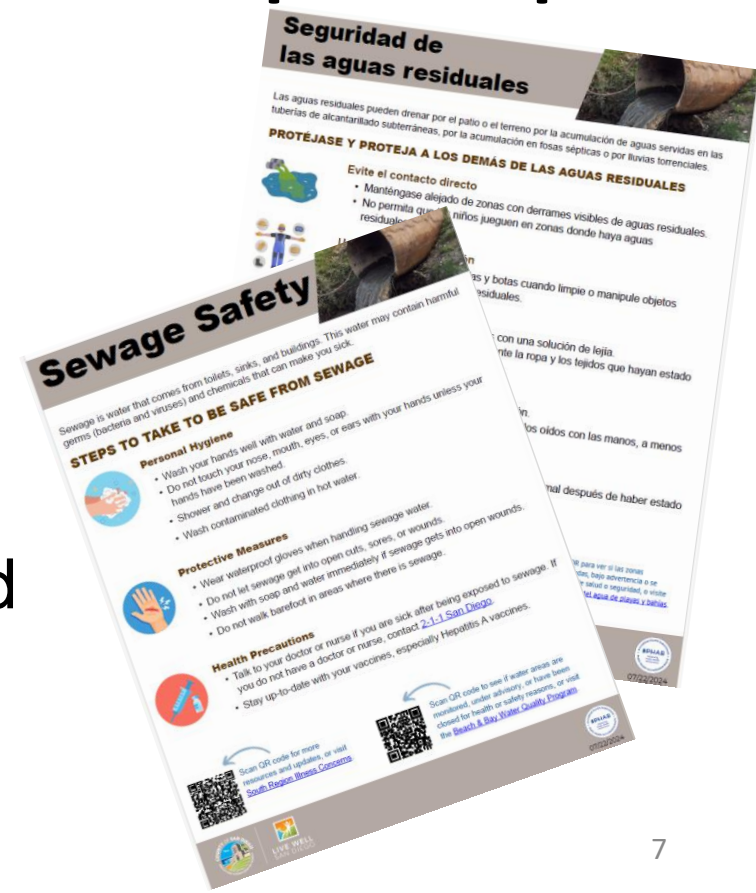


Recommendation 3



Development of local decontamination protocols for sewage contaminated floodwaters in parks, roadways, and other public spaces

- Best Practices Guidance was developed for use by DEHQ to develop individual decontamination protocols
- Published FAQs for Tijuana River Valley Sewage Situation Public Health Services South Region Illness Concerns Webpage
- Sewage Exposure and Sewage Safety flyers developed are available online and delivered with 414 Air Purifiers to South Bay



Recommendation 4



Collaborate with the Task Force to develop a list of data sources that can support tracking sewage-associated, non-reportable diseases

- Approval received for CDC Epi-Aid to further investigate health impacts
- Consulted federal partners on relevant work and approach
- Continued weekly meetings weekly with CDPH to review disease surveillance
- Explored CDC and EPA data and support international sewage treatment discussions
- Reviewed sensor locations in South Bay

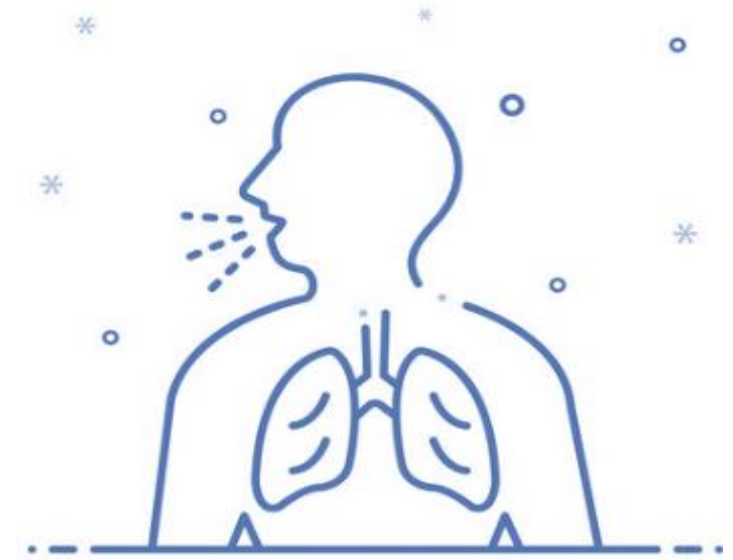


Recommendation 5



Requesting zip-code level asthma and respiratory illness data from California Breathing Program

- Obtained zip-code level data through 2022.
- Data aligns with asthma syndromic surveillance data already monitored by the County
- Asthma syndromic surveillance data to be added to *Surveillance Bulletin: South Region Illness Concerns*



Recommendation 6



Requesting enhanced water quality testing and enhanced communication from other agencies, including the San Diego Regional Water Control Board

- Beach water access and closures managed by DEHQ
- Enhanced surveillance and water quality testing requested
- Supported Task Force to obtain information for fish testing and on how to obtain right of way for environmental sampling.
- Water and air sampling data to be reviewed with CDC Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Recommendation 7



Options for additional funding to assess the economic and health impacts of the Tijuana Sewage crisis and secure the necessary infrastructure repairs to permanently fix the problem

- Engagement with Tijuana River Pollution Task Force and community partners to advocate for:
 - Funding
 - Address economic and health impacts
 - Secure necessary sewage treatment infrastructure

No One Should Be Living In An Environment Where Smells And The Closing Of Beaches Are The Normal.

Continued Funding Is Needed To Fix The Root Cause, The Broken Sewage Systems.



(AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

QUESTIONS?

Ankita Kadakia, M.D.
Interim Public Health Officer
Public Health Services
Ankita.Kadakia@sdcounty.ca.gov

