

# Public Health and Consolidated Chemistry Laboratory

## 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

### Disease Prevention, Control and Surveillance

- ✓ Performed laboratory testing to support Communicable Disease and Tuberculosis Units in prevention and control of infectious and communicable diseases
- ✓ Validated new laboratory methods for improved detection of tuberculosis
- ✓ Participated in statewide disease reporting networks
- ✓ Contributed specimens for state and CDC to aid in surveillance and vaccine development



### Reference and Specialized Testing

- ✓ Provided diagnostic testing using methods not available in private sector
- ✓ Provided testing for diseases that are rare or unusual for other laboratories to maintain capacity
- ✓ Provided TB testing to local hospital laboratories with limited facilities and testing capability
- ✓ Verified results of other laboratories' tests



### Environmental Health and Protection

- ✓ Tested drinking and recreational water samples in support of state regulations
- ✓ Analyzed drinking water samples from private citizens for contaminants
- ✓ Tested irrigation water, aiding in client compliance with agricultural regulations
- ✓ Tested food and unknown substances associated with outbreak and food tampering investigations
- ✓ Performed *Legionella* testing for hospital water management programs and *Legionella* source investigations



### Educate Medical and Environmental Partners

- ✓ Sponsored CDC/APHL workshop to train local laboratories on shipping and packaging highly infectious microbes
- ✓ Wrote grant to host regional meeting on drinking water emergency response
- ✓ Gave presentations to State Water Board, Assoc. of Public Health Laboratories and Assoc. of CA Public Health Laboratory Directors
- ✓ Provided laboratory tours to medical residents, nursing students, clinical laboratory students and health staff and acknowledged students

## What's next in 2019?

The Laboratory will continue to support clients using accurate and rapid test methods; foster local, state and federal partnerships to expand laboratory support for outbreaks and emergencies; implement new technologies to improve diagnostic capability and track disease spread; ensure workforce capability and knowledge; improve facility, laboratory data management systems, document control systems, quality control and analytical capabilities and inform and educate the community on public and environmental health issues.

For more information please contact: [health@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:health@co.monterey.ca.us)



COUNTY OF MONTEREY  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**