**What is Public Health?**Public health protects and improves the health of the entire community. Over the last century, Public Health has dramatically improved our quality of life by:

1. Reducing childhood disabilities and death through vaccinations
2. Establishing policies that reduce motor-vehicle accidents
3. Advocating and promoting workplace safety
4. Controlling infectious diseases through investigation and treatment
5. Informing and educating about health and wellness
6. Assuring safe and healthy food quality
7. Improving the health of mothers and babies
8. Increasing access to family planning services
9. The fluoridation of drinking water
10. Reducing tobacco use

**Vision Statement**Healthy people in healthy communities.

**Mission Statement**

The San Benito County Public Health Department works in partnership with the community to ensure optimal health and well-being of all people by preventing disease, injury and disability, promoting physical and mental health and protecting from health hazards.

We accomplish this through identifying community health needs, assuring the availability of quality health services and providing effective leadership in developing public health policies.

We are committed to working in partnership with our communities to eliminate health disparities.

**Core Public Health Functions**

1. Assessment: The regular collection, analysis and sharing of information about health conditions, risks and resources in a community
2. Policy Development: The development of local and state health policies using information gathered from assessment activities. Policy development incorporates information sharing, citizen participation, and involvement in policy and decision making.
3. Assurance: Focuses on maintaining the capacity of public health to respond to critical situations such as disease outbreaks and environmental hazards, as well as the delivery of health care to persons who otherwise would not have any.

**10 Essential Public Health Services**

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems
2. Diagnose & investigate health problems and hazards
3. Inform, educate and empower residents about health issues
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. Link people to needed professional health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
8. Assure a confident public health and personal health care workforce
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems