



JAMES A. RYDINGSWORD AGENCY DIRECTOR

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES** Healthy People in Healthy Communities

## **Press Release**

## The Health Department Departs Its Fourth Street Location

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SAN BENITO COUNTY

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY** 

After over seventy years of serving San Benito County at 439 Fourth Street, Public Health Services, historically known as the "County Health Department," has outgrown its humble structure. Public Health Services has relocated to 351 Tres Pinos Road, Suite A-202, in Hollister. The new office, twice the size of the old building, is located in the Hollister Shopping Center next to the YMCA, above Heritage Bank and First 5 San Benito.

You may remember the old "health department" location on Fourth Street as the place you or your children received their shots, where you obtained a birth certificate for your baby, or possibly a death certificate for a loved one. Over the years, San Benito County Public Health Services has undergone changes in accordance with California health and safety codes, state policies and legislation. Some services such as vital statistics, which provides birth and death certificates to families, remain the same. For generations, public health nurses have investigated, monitored, and helped to prevent and treat reportable diseases in the community—and this important work continues. Other services, such as vaccinations, have been limited to specific population groups. Various public health programs like nutrition, oral health, and tobacco prevention education (championed by health educators) have expanded their efforts into schools, after-school programs, and other community venues.

By spearheading the Safe Kids Coalition of San Benito County, the Wellness Coalition, the Opioid Task Force, and the Pharmacy Work Group, Public Health Services has been a leader in bringing together essential partners to promote health across the community spectrum. Public health educators, doctors, and nurses are key members of these partnerships as well as with the Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, the Tobacco Youth Coalition, and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. These are critical cross-sector partnerships that promote health through scientific strategies, best-and-proven practices, and advocacy for the passage of legislation and laws.

Public Health Services has joined its Environmental Health team at 351 Tres Pinos Road. Environmental Health occupies suite C-1, which relocated from Health and Human Services Agency headquarters at 1111 San Felipe Road in 2017. Environmental Health continues to issue food and septic permits, inspect food facilities, and enforce regulations as they have traditionally done over decades throughout San Benito County.

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PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES 351 Tres Pinos Road, Suite A-202 Hollister, CA 95023 831-637-5367 MEDICAL THERAPY UNIT 761 South Street Hollister, CA 95023 831-637-1989 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 351 Tres Pinos Road, Suite C-1 Hollister, CA 95023 831-636-4035

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS 439 Fourth Street Hollister, CA 95023 831-637-5367 Preventing disease and injury, improving the quality of life, and elevating the well-being of its residents remain crucial as San Benito County grows. Public Health Services' relocation to its newly remodeled, larger facility will provide the necessary space and technology for its public servants to carry out the science and art of promoting health, mitigating the effects of disease, and protecting the community from preventable illness and injury.



County Health Officer Dr.Gail Newel and County Supervisor and Chair Anthony Botelho cut the red ribbon at the opening of the new Public Health Services office at 351 Tres Pinos Road, Suite A202.

Check the San Benito Public Health Services website for more information: <u>http://hhsa.cosb.us/publichealth/.</u>

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