The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) serves as the national focus for developing and applying disease prevention and control, environmental health, and health promotion and health education activities designed to improve the health of the people of the United States.

To accomplish its mission, CDC identifies and defines preventable health problems and maintains active surveillance of diseases through epidemiologic and laboratory investigations and data collection, analysis, and distribution; serves as the PHS lead agency in developing and implementing operational programs relating to environmental health problems, and conducts operational research aimed at developing and testing effective disease prevention, control, and health promotion programs; administers a national program to develop recommended occupational safety and health standards and to conduct research, training, and technical assistance to assure safe and healthful working conditions for every working person; develops and implements a program to sustain a strong national workforce in disease prevention and control; and conducts a national program for improving the performance of clinical laboratories.

CDC is responsible for controlling the introduction and spread of infectious diseases, and provides consultation and assistance to other nations and international agencies to assist in improving their disease prevention and control, environmental health, and health promotion activities. CDC administers the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant and specific preventive health categorical grant programs while providing program expertise and assistance in responding to Federal, State, local, and private organizations on matters related to disease prevention and control activities.

Office of the Director, CDC (CA)

(1) Manages and directs the activities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); (2) provides leadership for the implementation of CDC's responsibilities related to disease prevention and control; (3) advises the Assistant Secretary for Health and the Surgeon General on policy matters concerning CDC activities; (4) participates in the development of CDC goals and objectives; (5) provides overall direction and coordination to the epidemiologic activities of CDC; (6) coordinates CDC response to health emergencies; (7) provides liaison with other governmental agencies, international organizations including the World Health Organization and the U.S. Agency for International Development, learning institutions, and other outside groups; (8) coordinates, in collaboration with the Public Health Service (PHS) Office of International Health, international health activities relating to disease prevention and control; (9) in cooperation with PHS Regional Offices, provides or obtains technical assistance for State and local health departments and private and official agencies as needed; (10) provides overall direction to, and coordination of, the scientific/medical programs of CDC; (11) oversees and provides leadership for laboratory science, safety, and quality management; (12) plans, promotes, and coordinates an ongoing program to assure equal employment opportunities in CDC;
(13) provides leadership, coordination, and assessment of administrative management activities; (14) coordinates with appropriate PHS staff offices on administrative and program matters; (15) coordinates the consumer affairs activities for CDC; and (16) provides leadership, policy guidance, coordination, technical expertise, and services to promote the development and implementation of the agency’s Genomics Program. (Approved 8/17/2018; Effective 9/25/2018)