

HIPAA
NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how Alameda County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) may use and disclose your protected health information (PHI) to carry out inspections, investigations and other activities that are permitted and required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your protected health information. "Protected Health Information" is information about you, including demographic information, that may identify you and that may relate to your past, present or future health or condition or related healthcare services.

Uses And Disclosures Of Protected Health Information

Your protected health information may be used and disclosed by your physician, this Agency's staff, and others outside of our Agency that may be involved with your healthcare or treatment and for any other use required by law.

Purposes

The Department of Environmental Health will use and disclose your protected health information *only* when necessary to conduct inspections, coordinate investigations and manage any other environmental health-related services as required by law. Any protected health information disclosed will be the minimum amount necessary to accomplish the specific function.

Environmental Health Operations

The Department of Environmental Health may use and disclose, as needed, your protected health information in order to support the activities of this Agency and other Public Health agencies collaborating to prevent or eliminate public health hazards. These activities include, but are not limited to, foodborne and waterborne illness investigations, disease prevention and control, public and environmental health surveillance.

The Department of Environmental Health may use or disclose your protected health information for the following reasons without your authorization. These include but not limited to:

- As required by federal, state, or local law
- Public Health risks for public health activities to prevent and control disease
- Lawsuits and disputes in response to a court or administrative order
- Law enforcement to help respond to criminal activities
- To prevent a threat to individual or public health or safety

Under the law, Department of Environmental Health will make disclosures to you and maintain compliance with Health & Safety Code Section 164.500.

Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures Will Be Made Only With Your Consent, Authorization or Opportunity To Object unless required by law. You may revoke this authorization, at any time, in writing, except to the extent your healthcare provider has taken an action in reliance on the use or disclosure indicated in the authorization.