



**Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency
Health Advisory Committee (HAC)
Meeting Minutes/ February 10, 2025**

Place:	Tulare County Government Plaza – RMA Main Conference Room	Start Time:	1:00 p.m.
	5957 S. Mooney Blvd, Visalia, CA 93277	End Time:	2:30 p.m.
Committee Members Present:	Supervisor Amy Shuklian, Dr. Ana Coll, Candace Hilvers, Lali Witrago, Nilsa Gonzalez, Dr. Thomas Overton, Alexandra Yates, Cynthia Bartlett, Melissa Mertz, Nilsa Gonzalez, and Marie Macedo		
Committee Members Absent:	Christina Rodriguez, Ryan Gates		
Guests/Staff Present:	Karen Elliott, Staci Chastain, Lisanne Herrera, Sharon Minnick, Sean Roberts, Laura Esbenshade, Sandy Navarro, Laura Villar, Nesreen Gusbi, Arcellie Santos, and Gabriel Diaz		
AGENDA ITEM		SCHEDULED ACTIONS RECOMMENDATIONS	PERSON (S) RESPONSIBLE
I. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by Chair Shuklian at 1:05 p.m.		CHAIR
II. Introductions	Round table introduction with members present.		ALL
III. Public Comment	No public comments.		
IV. Action Items			CHAIR
a. Approve Minutes from December 9, 2024	Marie Macedo motioned her approval, which Dr. Ana Coll seconded.		
V. Reports / Discussion Items			
a. Tulare County Public Health- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in Tulare County	<p>Virology background information was provided on influenza viruses, which fall into four main types: Influenza A, Influenza B, Influenza C, and Influenza D.</p> <p>Since 1997, H5N1 human cases have been reported in 27 countries. In early 2024, Texas dairies reported a new form of mastitis in their cattle, and on March 25th, H5N1 was identified as the Texas dairy’s infection. By April 2024, CDC reported its first case of H5N1 in</p>		<p>Dr. Sharon Minnick Senior Epidemiologist & Sean Roberts Emergency Services Specialist II</p>



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humans, and by late August 2 dairies in Tulare County had experienced an outbreak. The first reported human case of H5N1 was in Tulare County in September 2024.

There has been a multi-agency response across the state, with Tulare County Public Health (PH) preparing their response efforts as early as March 2024 by providing guidance and education to medical providers, employers and the community.

A tabletop exercise consisting of over 85 local/state/federal partners was held in August 2024 at the Visalia Convention Center to discuss efforts that had been made in other states, and to identify areas that had room for improvement in preparedness as well as provided a networking opportunity for all those that would be involved.

There are currently over 200 dairies in Tulare and Kings County, and essentially all dairies are infected.

Other areas of detected cases have been in poultry facilities, backyard flocks and wild birds.

For Tulare County, current data shows (as of 1/31/2025), out of the 80 humans tested, there have been 18 confirmed cases (1 probable) of H5N1, and most have experienced relatively mild infections with no hospitalization or deaths. All cases (confirmed and probable) were associated with dairy work and were all male with a median age range of 39 years old. 84% of those affected were Hispanic.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) was made available to employers and to date, PH has distributed 10% of the federal total



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	of PPE (approx. 1.7 million pieces). The branch has coordinated testing for exposed workers, and their close symptomatic contacts. PH has continued to work closely with the CDC for additional data collection and surveillance projects.		
VI. Member Announcements	No member announcements.		ALL
VII. Agenda items for the next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Medi-Cal benefits and eligibility criteria for enrollment by Kaiser Permanente • Street Medicine presentation by Kaweah Health 		
VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on April 14, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., in the RMA Main Conference Room - 5957 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, CA 93277.</p>		
Minutes Prepared By:	Mila Orth, Department Secretary, HHSA/Public Health		