

NEHA NEWS

NEHA Partners With NNPHI for Project Firstline

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is proud to partner with the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) for Project Firstline (www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/index.html). Project Firstline is a collaborative of diverse healthcare, public health, and environmental health partners who have come together to provide foundational knowledge of infection control.

To stop the spread of infectious disease threats, including COVID-19, professionals in healthcare, public health, and environmental health need a knowledge of infection control and should understand and be ready to implement infection control protocols and procedures in their work duties and functions. This collaboration will provide these professionals with valuable infection control training to aid them in protecting their communities and the nation from infectious disease threats.

On March 30, 2021, NEHA and NNPHI cohosted a Project Firstline Environmental Health Q&A Session aimed at providing environmental health professionals with infection control training. Presenters of the session included Gina Bare, associate director of NEHA's Program and Partnership Development, and Dr. Timothy Landers, infection prevention control specialist and associate professor within the College of Nursing at Ohio State University.

Learn more about NEHA's involvement in Project Firstline at www.neha.org/eh-topics/preparedness-0.

NEHA and NCHH Release New Guide for Safer Cleaning and Disinfection

NEHA and the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) have compiled a *Healthy Homes Guide to Cleaning and Disinfection* in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of a larger strategy that includes practicing social distancing and wearing a mask, cleaning and disinfection can help keep yourself, friends, family, and communities safe and healthy. Cleaning and disinfecting are also important for protecting against the seasonal flu and other infectious diseases.

Developed for the general public, including homeowners and residents, this resource is a compilation of expert guidance, key messages, and a summary of information with links to external resources. Topics addressed in this guide include homes, hand hygiene and personal protective equipment, products, ventilation, and more.

Due to federal recommendations and other state and local directives, you are likely cleaning and disinfecting as part of a larger personal or professional strategy to prevent COVID-19 transmission and infection. This guide will help you make decisions and navigate the processes of cleaning and disinfection safely and effectively. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/NCHHinfoSafeClean> about the expert guidance on cleaning and disinfection to protect yourself, your home, and your community to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. 🙏

IN MEMORIAM

Dennis Catanyag

On January 14, 2021, Dennis Catanyag was fatally wounded while performing duties protecting and serving his community as a registered environmental health specialist (REHS) for Sacramento County in California. "He had a passion for public service and the health and safety of people in the community. He was very well liked by his colleagues, who enjoyed his lively personality and respected his professional integrity," stated Ann Edwards, Sacramento County acting executive, in a letter to county employees. "The death of Dennis is an extraordinary loss to his family, the county, and the community. Our hearts go out to his friends and family as they cope with this incomprehensible tragedy."

Catanyag earned his bachelor of science degree in biological sciences with a minor in chemistry in 1998 from California State University, Sacramento. He became an REHS in August 2002. He worked for Sacramento County for 15 years in the Environmental

Health Division conducting food protection, recreational health, and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) inspections. Catanyag most recently worked as the program lead for CLPPP where he was able to practice his commitment to protecting children from lead exposure in their homes. His professional integrity, empathy, and friendly demeanor made him well respected.

Prior to working in Sacramento County, Catanyag worked in San Joaquin County as a senior REHS for 4 years conducting Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) inspections. He was a dedicated employee who was committed to his family and his job. He had a passion for protecting public health, especially children.

"I think about his balance and intensity, both of which I try to emulate. One may see these as opposing but that was the irony that made Dennis unique. He was intense in a sense that he was fiercely competitive. Tennis, poker, marathons, escape rooms—he always tried to win. Super focused and relentless. He put his best