

## Greetings Fellow CEHA Members,

THIS PAST YEAR has been anything but normal. While the COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted all of us in many and different ways, I am impressed with the board we have and its determination to continue CEHA's mission. While the CEHA Board decided to cancel the 2020 Update and move the 2021 AES to 2022, much planning for the 2022 AES and other continuing education venues are in the works.

CEHA is in partnership with CCDEH to offer Leadership, Management, and LEA Training sessions. These sessions will be offered starting April 2021. You can find more information and the registration form on the CEHA website, under Updates & AES, or at [www.ccdeh.org](http://www.ccdeh.org). We are also looking into offering a virtual Pool Plan Check training. And I do have a little surprise for all CEHA members later to be announced this summer. Keep your membership current is all I can say. Contact [membership@ceha.org](mailto:membership@ceha.org) to check your status.

On January 14th, the REHS family

suffered a tragic loss with the senseless death of Dennis Catanyag. Dennis was an Environmental Health Specialist with the Sacramento Environmental Management Division. I met Dennis at the 2012 AES. He was a gentle person, full of life and always with a smile. There is a fundraiser link on the CEHA home page, and I urge you to donate whatever you can to help Dennis's wife and young daughter.

Lastly, due to the pandemic, much of the goals the 2020-2021 CEHA board had hoped to achieve were not attained. To fulfill these goals, the CEHA board plans to re-run for their positions again so that we can keep our promise to you.

I am hopeful this coming year will be the return to the life we knew. We are not there yet and it will be slow. But if we all can hold on together just a little longer, we will get through this and be better from what we learned.

Till we meet again, please stay safe and be well. 🌻



**DARRYL WONG**  
2020-2021 CEHA PRESIDENT

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 In Memory of Dennis Catanyag
- 2 CDPH Environmental Health Toolkit
- 3 Call for Submissions
- 3 REHS Stats as of April 2021
- 3 *Washing Germs Down the Drain*
- 4 CEHA Contact Information

## In Loving Memory of Dennis Catanyag, REHS

ON JANUARY 14, 2021, CEHA Superior Chapter and Sacramento County lost an REHS family member, **Dennis Catanyag**.

Dennis was fatally wounded while performing duties protecting and serving Sacramento County as an REHS.

Dennis Catanyag earned his Biological Science degree from California State University—Sacramento in 1998 and 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. Prior to working in Sacramento County, Dennis worked in San Joaquin County for four years conducting CUPA inspections.

He was a dedicated employee committed to his family and his job. He had a passion for protecting public health, especially children. Dennis most recently worked as the program lead in the CLPPP



# BULLETIN

California Environmental Health Association

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program where he was able to practice his commitment to protecting children from lead-based paint hazards in the home. Dennis' professional integrity, empathy, and friendly demeanor made him well respected in the CLPPP program.

The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department lost a friend and colleague and will miss Dennis' professional integrity, fun personality, and great smile.

Dennis leaves behind his wife Shelley and daughter

Lauryn who ask for prayers and support during this difficult time. Friends and colleagues may pay tribute to Dennis, his wife Shelley, and their daughter Lauryn by visiting the online memorial page and GoFundMe account that were created by Dennis' close friends, led by John Lai.

Thank you for supporting Dennis and his family. 🌻

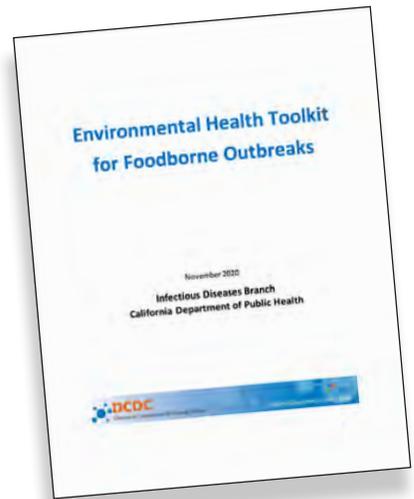
<https://www.forevermissed.com/dennis-catanyag/about>  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/dennis-catanyag>

## NOW AVAILABLE! CDPH Environmental Health Toolkit for Foodborne Outbreaks



**KATHERINE LAMBA and VI PERALTA**  
 EPIDEMIOLOGISTS

*Infectious Diseases Branch, California Department of Public Health*



**T**HE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT of Public Health (CDPH) Infectious Diseases Branch (IDB), in collaboration with the CDPH Food and Drug Branch and California local health departments (LHDs), has developed a toolkit for local environmental health specialists in California to use when investigating food establishments that may be involved in a foodborne disease outbreak.

The toolkit is now available at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/EHToolkitFoodborneOutbreaks.pdf>, as well as on the [CDPH Foodborne Illnesses and Outbreaks](#) webpage.

The objectives of the toolkit are to (1) provide instructions and instruments to support a comprehensive environmental health assessment; (2) standardize the collection of environmental health evidence during outbreak investigations; (3) instruct Environmental Health

Services staff on how to gather enough evidence to identify contributing factors and root causes; and (4) encourage collaboration among public health staff from environmental health, epidemiology/communicable diseases, and laboratory disciplines.

The toolkit includes forms for interviewing restaurant managers and employees, establishment observation forms, guidelines for collection of environmental and food samples, chain of custody forms, and additional resources for restaurant employees and environmental health specialists. Please note that the toolkit documents do not include a comprehensive list of all foodborne pathogens; these tools may be adapted for individual LHDs or pathogen-specific needs.

For more information about the toolkit, please contact Vi Peralta ([Vi.Peralta@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Vi.Peralta@cdph.ca.gov)) or Katherine Lamba ([Katherine.Lamba@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Katherine.Lamba@cdph.ca.gov)) of the CDPH IDB at (510) 620-3434. 🌻

APRIL 2021  
**REHS  
 STATS**

- Active REHS – **2,776**
- EHS Trainee Candidates – **1,576**
- NEW REHS – March 2021 Exam - **36**
- Retired – **992**
- Suspended – **93**

## ATTENTION CEHA MEMBERS: A Call for Submissions!

**C**EHA IS PLANNING TO RE-LAUNCH its *California Journal of Environmental Health* later this year. In its consideration of articles for this peer-reviewed journal, the Publications Committee is asking CEHA members with graduate level degrees to submit abstracts of their thesis or dissertation, as well as any articles emanating from the work. This is a great opportunity to share your hard efforts in promoting public and environmental health.

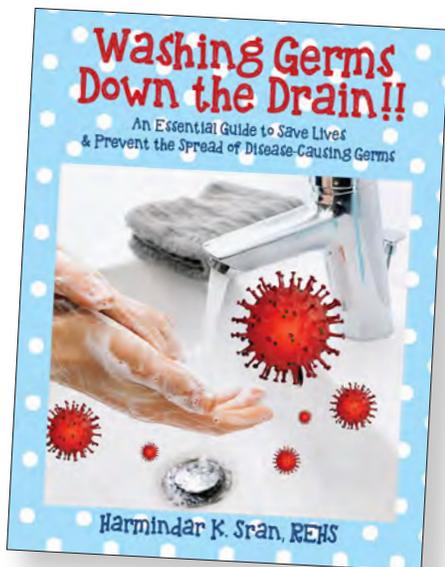
Dusty on the bookshelf? Any previous thesis or dissertation is welcome for

consideration because it may have had an impact on later changes in health & safety regulations or environmental policies. A historical contribution, let us say. Let's not forget that!

So, any queries, abstracts, articles, etc., should be emailed to Dr. Amer El-Ahraf at [elahraf@aol.com](mailto:elahraf@aol.com). In addition, please copy the Publications Committee in your email to [publications@ceha.org](mailto:publications@ceha.org). You will receive an e-mail confirming that the material was received.

Thank you! 

## *Washing Germs Down the Drain: An Essential Guide to Save Lives and Prevent the Spread of Disease-Causing Germs*



Reviewed by **DR. AMER EL-AHRAF**

EMERITUS FULL PROFESSOR OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
 VICE PRESIDENT EMERITUS  
 California State University, Dominguez Hills

*Disease-Causing Germs*, written by our colleague, Harmindar K. Sran and published by Outskirts Press, is well written for professionals and the lay public. It is composed of six informative chapters covering important subjects such as an introduction to “germs” with differentiation between bad germs and good germs; taking care of oneself, especially in cases of illness; acceptable ways to greet people without direct contact (important in an age of social distancing), which may entail changing some norms of greetings in cultures other than one’s own. While hand washing is recognized as the best way to protect against germs, the author covers

other ways to achieve best results and when to consider these options. Recognizing that hand sanitizers have gained popularity because of convenience, the author provides appropriate cautionary notes on their use.

The book addresses hygiene and sanitation in a sophisticated but easy-to-read manner about a basic and important function as simple as hand washing. Yet, hand washing with soap, before its invention, was not as simple or as accessible in some parts of the world, including Europe, as it is today. But, then, in our times, soap is not the only material used to wash dirt and micro-organisms down the drain. There are

**T**HIS IS A BOOK FOR ALL TIMES and not just these times of COVID-19.

*Washing Germs Down the Drain: An Essential Guide to Save Lives and Prevent the Spread of*

other materials of such nature that may cause allergy or other problems. Add to that the unethical practice of some manufacturers to use cheaper and sometimes harmful components in their sanitizers. Therefore, the book starts, and rightly so, by the author's disclaimer of liability caused by any of the factors beyond the author's control or intentions. Yet, we clearly and early acknowledge that the author was careful in choosing

recognized sources of information and recommending best practices throughout the book.

The book covers other important aspects known to Environmental Health Specialists, and it provides information about research notes from numerous health-protecting agencies. Of special significance is the part addressing Children's Hand Washing Exercises. As a grandfather of three small children,

I recognize the value of such information and it gives me reason to salute the author for its inclusion in this publication.

Finally, the book is an important contribution to the value of the environmental health profession in combating this particular pandemic while emphasizing the traditional public health wisdom of "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure." 



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## THANK YOU from the Publications Committee

**T**HANK YOU to all the authors who contributed to this issue of the *CEHA Bulletin*. We greatly appreciate your time and dedication.

If you, too, would like the opportunity to publish an article, please submit it by emailing us at [publications@ceha.org](mailto:publications@ceha.org).

Make sure the article text and captions for photos are in Microsoft

Word document format, unlocked so that it can be edited. Please do not embed photos, graphics, and charts in the text; they should be sent separately as a jpeg, tiff or png.

Please note that submitting an article does not guarantee it will be published. Contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to reading your submission!

### ***CEHA is committed to the Environmental Health Profession!***

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:** Richard Diaz (CHAIR), Sarah Crossman, Julie DeGraw, Dr. Amer El-Ahraf, Graciela Garcia, Jahniah McGill, Adam Rocke, Vickie Sandoval

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