

## Public Health Services Update

October 10, 2019

Dear Kern County Health Care Provider:

This quarterly letter is being sent to call your attention to some important health updates in Kern County. This letter contains hyperlinks and can be accessed on our [website \(https://kernpublichealth.com/health-bulletin/\)](https://kernpublichealth.com/health-bulletin/).

- **Vaping-Associated Pulmonary Injury (VAPI)**

As of October 1, 2019, there have been 1,080 reported cases of vaping-associated pulmonary injury (VAPI) and 18 deaths [nationwide](#). Vaping includes the use of e-cigarettes or other vaping devices that heat liquids containing nicotine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD), or other substances to be inhaled as an aerosol. There have been 102 reported cases of VAPI in [California](#), including 2 deaths. Three cases have been confirmed in [Kern County](#). On September 24, 2019, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released a public [health advisory](#) urging all persons to refrain from vaping while the investigation into these pulmonary injuries is ongoing. A [CAHAN alert](#) was also distributed to health care providers on October 1, 2019 requesting clinicians report all suspected cases of VAPI to the local health department as soon as possible. Similar recommendations have been published by the CDC [online](#). **Please report any suspected cases of VAPI among Kern County residents by phone to the Kern County Public Health Services Department at (661) 868-0253.** If outside normal business hours, please leave a detailed message at this number and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

- **Changes to Reportable Conditions**


Changes to California Code of Regulations, Title 17, [Sections 2500](#) and [2505](#) (reportable conditions for health care providers and laboratories) went into effect on October 1, 2019. A summary of updates can be found [online](#). Please ensure you and your facility are in compliance.

- **Influenza Vaccination or Masking Order**

On August, 26, 2019, a [Health Officer Order](#) regarding mandatory influenza vaccination or masking in Kern County was issued. Please note that the order is in effect November 1 through April 30 unless surveillance data demonstrates and unusually early and/or late influenza activity. Please ensure all health care workers at your facility are protected while they continue to protect the health of our community.

If you have any questions, please contact KCPHSD by phone at (661) 321-3000, via email at [publichealth@kerncounty.com](mailto:publichealth@kerncounty.com), or visit our [website](#).

Thank you,



Kristopher Lyon, MD  
Interim Health Officer