

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

## URGENT HEALTH BULLETIN

### Mumps Evaluation Guidance for Healthcare Providers

This bulletin contains hyperlinks and can be accessed on our [website](https://kernpublichealth.com/health-bulletin/) (<https://kernpublichealth.com/health-bulletin/>)

December 23, 2019

Dear Kern County Health Care Provider:

Wasco State Prison (WSP) has confirmed 6 mumps cases in their facility, as well as several others with clinically compatible symptoms. At this time, no staff members or visitors to WSP have been identified with mumps.

Recommendations for mumps include the following:

- **Immunize.** Immunization is the primary prevention against mumps. All persons are recommended to be up to date on all age-appropriate vaccinations.
- **Assess.** While assessing the patient for mumps, consider differential diagnoses for parotitis. Also, while vaccination is highly effective with two doses of MMR, mumps infection can occur in vaccinated persons. History of vaccination does not preclude a mumps diagnosis.
- **Test.** PCR is the preferred method for testing an acute case of mumps. Collect a [buccal swab](#) in viral transport media. Specimens may be sent to a commercial laboratory or through the Kern Public Health Lab. Mumps serology has limited interpretation due to false positive IgM results; IgG testing requires paired sera. More information about specimen collection can be found [here](#).
- **Isolate.** Persons can be contagious 2 days prior through 5 days after onset of parotitis. Patients suspected of mumps should be advised to stay home until their infectious period has passed.
- **Report.** Suspect cases of mumps must be reported to the Public Health Department. Reports may be submitted by phone (661-321-3000), fax (661-868-0261), or electronically through CalREDIE.

Neither mumps vaccine nor immune globulin is effective for mumps post-exposure prophylaxis. However, vaccination may protect from subsequent exposures. While not routinely recommended for the general public, a third dose of MMR vaccine may be considered for persons who may be exposed to mumps multiple times (such as during an ongoing outbreak). More information about evaluating a patient for mumps can be found [here](#).

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,



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Health Officer