

## Public Health Services Update

April 2, 2018

Dear Kern County Health Care Provider:

This letter is being sent to call your attention to some important health updates in Kern County. Similar publications will be distributed quarterly or more often if the need arises.

- **Retirement of Health Officer, Dr. Claudia Jonah**

After 29 years of dedicated service to Kern County, Dr. Jonah retired effective March 31, 2018. Dr. Jonah has steered our community through a number of emerging infectious diseases, from West Nile Virus to pandemic H1N1 influenza to preparing for Ebola. She has championed healthy communities by being involved with First 5 California, developing programs focused on obesity and chronic disease prevention, seeing patients in the public health clinic, and much, much more.

- **Appointment of Interim Health Officer, Dr. Kristopher Lyon**

Dr. Lyon has been the Medical Director of Kern County's Emergency Medical Services Department since February 2015 and has been appointed as the interim Health Officer effective April 1, 2018. He received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in 2006 and completed emergency medicine residency at Loma Linda University Medical Center in 2009. He currently works in Emergency Medicine at Adventist Health-Bakersfield as well as Occupational Medicine in San Luis Obispo County. Dr. Lyon is board certified in Emergency Medicine and Emergency Medical Services.

- **Thank you for attending the Kern County STD Symposium**

Nearly 100 local healthcare providers attended this event hosted at the Bakersfield Marriott. Dr. Heidi Bauer from the California Department of Public Health and Erin Crawley from Essential Access Health both provided important information about the diagnosis of STDs and resources available in Kern County. We asked for and have received suggestions for additional topics to bring our medical community together. We appreciate your commitment to continuing education and hope to provide additional opportunities in the future.

- **2017-2018 Influenza Season Update**

As of March 27, 2018 there have been 11 severe influenza cases (those requiring ICU hospitalization) and one death reported in Kern County in persons under the age of 65. While the burden on the community seems to be tapering, risk of influenza infection is still abundant. Vaccination is recommended for those who are eligible.

If you have any questions, please contact the Kern County Public Health Services Department by phone at (661) 321-3000, via email at [publichealth@kerncounty.com](mailto:publichealth@kerncounty.com) or visit our [website](http://www.kernpublichealth.com).

Thank you,



Kristopher Lyon, MD  
Interim Health Officer