

## Public Health Services Update

April 1, 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/).

- **2018-2019 Influenza Season Update**

As of March 29, 2019 there have been 25 severe influenza cases (those requiring ICU hospitalization) and 8 deaths reported in Kern County in persons under the age of 65. [The Kern County Influenza Report](#) is updated weekly. Statewide weekly updates from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are provided [here](#). Vaccination is recommended for those who are eligible. [Influenza Vaccination or Masking Health Order](#) is in effect. Please ensure all health care workers at your facility are protected.

- **Infant Evaluation Guide for Congenital Syphilis provided by CDPH**

In 2016, Kern County was designated as an area with [high syphilis morbidity](#). CDPH recently published a one page [document](#) summarizing the evaluation and treatment of infants born to women with syphilis during pregnancy to provide a concise evaluation guide.

- **Updated Clinical Guidance for Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention**

CDPH has updated their clinical guidance documents relating to screening and infant follow up for the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program. Updated documents include updated guidelines for [prenatal care providers](#), [labor and delivery hospitals](#), and [pediatric providers](#).

- **Updated Measles Clinical Guidance**


Given the current measles situation nationwide and globally, CDPH [updated clinical guidance](#). To date this year, Kern County has NOT had any confirmed cases of measles. However, California and other states have had confirmed cases in 2019.

- **Mumps Clinical Guidance**

Parotitis can be caused by many agents including, but not limited to mumps virus, influenza A virus, Epstein-Barr virus, and coxsackieviruses. To rule out mumps from the differential, the preferred method of testing is a buccal or oral swab for RT-PCR. Providers can contact the health department for mumps virus consultation and testing approval. [Clinical guidance](#) and [lab testing guidance](#) are provided.

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](#).

Thank you,

  
Kristopher Lyon, MD  
Interim Health Officer