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/).

- **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, or visit our website.

Thank you,

Kristopher Lyon, MD
Interim Health Officer