

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency



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October 15, 2012

Dear Health Officer and/or Health Director:

This letter is to alert you that your Local Health Department (LHD) will receive inquiries from Eligible Hospitals (EHs), Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), and Eligible Professionals (EPs) seeking direction on how to submit test messages for purposes of meeting Stage 1 Public Health Meaningful Use attestation requirements. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with guidance on how to respond to these inquiries. As background, Meaningful Use provisions of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act were enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Under this Act, EHs, CAHs, and EPs that provide clinical services to Medicare and Medicaid patients and commence the transmission of electronic health data are eligible to receive Meaningful Use financial incentives from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Public Health Objectives for electronic data transmissions in Stage 1 of Meaningful Use include one or more of immunization data, syndromic surveillance data, and electronic laboratory data for EHs and CAHs, and one or both of immunization data and syndromic surveillance data for EPs.

To meet Stage 1 Meaningful Use requirements, EHs and CAHs should have fulfilled one or more Public Health objectives by September 30, 2012. EPs must complete one or more Public Health objectives by December 31, 2012.

It is recommended you provide EHs, CAHs, and EPs with the following guidance for the different types of Public Health objective data:

1. LHD has the capacity to receive data:

- For syndromic surveillance data – If your LHD is capable of receiving electronic syndromic surveillance messages to a system that meets the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Meaningful Use standards, EHs, CAHs, or EPs should be informed on how to send a test message. Upon successful receipt of a test message, the submitter should be provided with confirmation of a successful test message. If you do not have a syndromic surveillance system, you may consider using CDC's BioSense 2.0 CDC approved syndromic surveillance system for Meaningful Use, by contacting:

*Gideon Scott Gordon, PhD, Director - Informatics
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450, Arlington, VA 22202
Phone: (571) 527-3160; e-mail: sgordon@astho.org*

- For immunization and laboratory reporting data – If your LHD has the capability of receiving electronic immunization or laboratory reporting data, please advise your EPs, EHs, and CAHs on how to submit a test message. Upon successful receipt of a test message, the submitter should be provided with confirmation of a successful test message.
2. LHD does not have the capacity to receive data:
- For syndromic surveillance data – If your LHD does not have the ability to receive syndromic surveillance messages, EHs, CAHs, or EPs should be provided direction to satisfy the reporting of immunization or laboratory data.
 - For immunization data – If your LHD does not have the ability to receive electronic immunization data, EHs, CAHs, or EPs may be advised to consult the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) website located at: <http://cairweb.org/cair-regions/> to identify their region. After determining their region, they should be advised to go to the Data Exchange Tech Support page at: <http://cairweb.org/data-exchange-tech-support/> to obtain the name of the regional Data Exchange representative they should contact in regards to the submission of test data. Currently, all state CAIR regions are able to receive immunization test data. Upon submission of a test message, the submitter will receive a confirmation notice from CAIR. If the CAIR registry is unable to process the test message, they will provide the submitter with an exclusion notice.
 - For electronic laboratory reporting data – If your LHD does not have the capability to receive electronic laboratory reporting test messages, you may provide your EHs and CAHs with direction on how to satisfy the reporting of syndromic surveillance or immunization data. Alternatively, if your LHD is contracted with the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE), and your LHD permits direct reporting of laboratory data to the State, you may direct your EHs or CAHs to consult the CalREDIE website at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/informatics/tech/Pages/CalREDIEELR.aspx>, for guidance on how to submit a test message. Upon submission of a test message, the submitter will receive an electronic confirmation notice from CalREDIE. CalREDIE is currently able to receive electronic transmissions of laboratory data for most of the Title 17 reportable disease list data. Exceptions include HIV and reportable cancers. CalREDIE can also work with the LHD to add any locally reportable disease if it is configured in the same file format that Title 17 data are transmitted. Please note that EPs cannot choose the Electronic Laboratory Reporting requirement to fulfill Meaningful Use.

It is important to remember that at least one of these Public Health requirements for Meaningful Use can be met as CAIR is now set to receive immunization data statewide. There will be a Meaningful Use Webinar hosted by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Coalition of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) on behalf of LHDs to discuss this letter. The Webinar will be held at October 17 at 8:00 am; instructions for participation will follow in an e-mail.

Additionally, an on-line survey will be created to capture the name of the person who will be designated as the point of contact for Meaningful Use issues for each LHD. The appropriate contact may be the LHD's Health Officer or some other individual (e.g. Health Director, IT person, epidemiologist), or it may be a local website that provides the necessary information. The survey link will be sent out after the webex/teleconference to discuss this letter. Until survey responses are received, the LHD Health Officer will be considered the point of contact for Meaningful Use.

For further questions or guidance, please contact Roberta Lawson (phone: 916-440-7594; e-mail: Roberta.Lawson@cdph.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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Health Officer
San Diego County
President, CCLHO



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