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June 29, 2023

RE: Center for Outbreak Analytics and Disease Modeling Grant

Dear CDC Review Committee:

On behalf of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), representing the appointed physician health officers of California's 61 city and county jurisdictions, we firmly support the application of the CDPH Modeling Team for the CDC's Centers for Outbreak Analytics and Disease Modeling grant opportunity.

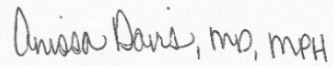
Since its inception in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the CDPH Modeling Team's timely analytics have been instrumental in strengthening our situational awareness. For instance, the COVID-19 forecasts, scenarios, and variant nowcasts published on the public-facing California Communicable diseases Assessment Tool (CalCAT) website have been regularly viewed by our organization membership. Additionally, the CDPH Modeling Team sharing dynamic, real-time outbreak and surveillance updates during CCLHO meetings has effectively guided our decision-making. In addition to statewide projections, this tool provides regional and local level analyses and views as well.

Moving forward, we are thrilled for the CDPH Modeling Team to continue expanding CalCAT by including other key pathogens of interest, building upon the website's introduction of influenza forecasts and scenarios in Fall of 2022. With the end of the public health emergency, the CDPH Modeling Team's ability to provide "always on" nowcasts, scenarios and forecasts at the state, regional and county levels for a larger suite of pathogens will improve our capacity to readily monitor and react to future public health emergencies.

Under this grant opportunity, we wholeheartedly hope that the CDPH Modeling Team will become a Center for Integration of Outbreak Analytics and Disease Modeling into Practice. Our future commitment to our continued partnership includes providing feedback on the utility of CDPH modeling efforts (nowcasting, forecasting, scenario modeling, and other needs as they arise). Such feedback may encompass optimization of model results and visualizations for our membership, other questions or policies that the modeling team could inform, and other collaboration partners in our jurisdictions. We will also remain in iterative conversation about our organizations and members' specific needs for modeling and analytics support before, during, and after a public health response.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature, and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anissa Davis, MD, MPH". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Anissa Davis, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers