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June 22, 2015

To: Whom it May Concern

SUBJECT: **MEANINGFUL USE INFORMATION FOR PROVIDERS**

Thank you for your email or other inquiry regarding meaningful use (MU).

At the present time, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH) regrets that it cannot assist hospitals and providers in their efforts to address Stage 1 and Stage 2 public health menu measures of MU.

**1) Syndromic Surveillance Data:** LAC DPH is currently at capacity and unable to establish new interfaces with eligible hospitals or providers to receive syndromic surveillance data electronically. However, LAC DPH may be able to accommodate upgrades of existing syndromic surveillance data interfaces to meet MU Stage 2 requirements (HL7 2.5.1). Eligible hospitals and providers may test their messages through the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's automated testing tool](http://www.cdc.gov/phin/resources/certification/MQFtool-overview.html) online at <http://www.cdc.gov/phin/resources/certification/MQFtool-overview.html>.\*

*\*Please note that the use of this automated testing tool would not qualify as performing a test with a public health agency for meeting the MU measures. This tool does not submit a test message to a public health agency.*

**2) Reportable Lab Results:** LAC DPH is currently at capacity and unable to update existing reportable lab result interfaces or assist new hospitals in testing the capabilities of their certified EHRs in sending reportable lab results to LAC DPH. Eligible hospitals may consider testing their messages through the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's automated testing tool](http://www.cdc.gov/phin/resources/certification/MQFtool-overview.html) online at <http://www.cdc.gov/phin/resources/certification/MQFtool-overview.html> prior to registering with the [CDPH HIE Gateway](http://hie.cdph.ca.gov/infectious-disease.html) online at <http://hie.cdph.ca.gov/infectious-disease.html> to submit lab reports electronically to CalREDIE.

**3) Immunization Data:** The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT and the California Department of Public Health have prioritized immunization data in California as a target for providers to meet Stage 1 of MU. To learn more about submission of immunization data, please contact [Eric Dansby](mailto:Eric.Dansby@cdph.ca.gov) (mail to: [Eric.Dansby@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Eric.Dansby@cdph.ca.gov) ), the Los Angeles-Orange tech support representative for the California Immunization Registry (CAIR). You may also find important information at the following website: [CDPH Gateway/IZ Portal](http://cairweb.org/data-exchange-tech-support/) online at <http://cairweb.org/data-exchange-tech-support/> .

It is recommended that eligible hospitals and providers work with their EHR vendors to determine whether it is appropriate to attest to exclusion from the public health measures of MU. According to CMS, exclusion from the public health measures does not prevent an eligible hospital or provider from meeting the MU requirements. Eligible hospitals and providers may find it useful to assess whether they will successfully demonstrate MU by using CMS' attestation calculator ([Stage 1](http://www.cms.gov/apps/stage-1-meaningful-use-attestation-calculator/) or [Stage 2](http://www.cms.gov/apps/stage-2-meaningful-use-attestation-calculator/) online at <http://www.cms.gov/apps/stage-1-meaningful-use-attestation-calculator/> or <http://www.cms.gov/apps/stage-2-meaningful-use-attestation-calculator/> , respectively). Should you need assistance with the reporting timeline, please refer to the [My EHR Participation Timeline](http://cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Participation-Timeline.html#.VYh95flViko) online at <http://cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Participation-Timeline.html#.VYh95flViko> .

Although LAC DPH may not receive MU reportable lab results or syndromic surveillance data at this time, CAIR may be able to accept immunization data. Therefore, eligible hospitals and providers who administer immunizations may not be able to exclude themselves from validation of this public health measure.

You are encouraged to save a copy of this memo as your record of communication with the LAC DPH regarding connecting for MU, and as your documentation of our department's current status. Should you have any further questions regarding MU for the LAC DPH, please visit our MU webpage at <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/cdcp/meaningfuluse.htm> or contact us by email at [meaningfuluse@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:meaningfuluse@ph.lacounty.gov) or telephone at 213-989-7161.

Sincerely,

Ms. Patricia Araki, MPH  
LAC DPH Meaningful Use Coordinator