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To promote and protect the physical, mental, social, and environmental health for the people of Kings County through education and prevention

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To: Kings County Perinatal Providers

From: Michael Mac Lean, M.D.

Congenital Syphilis Prevention

Dear Colleagues,

Following up on my communication of March 24, 2015, congenital syphilis continues to be a concern in Kings County and in the region. I have now designated Kings County as an area with high syphilis morbidity. With this designation, best practice and guidelines established by the CDC, USPSTF and the California Department of Public Health recommend that all pregnant women be screened for syphilis three times during their pregnancy:

1. At the first prenatal visit – this is legally required under Health and Safety Code
2. Early in the third trimester of pregnancy at 28-32 weeks
3. At delivery

As before, a stat RPR should be performed at delivery for women with no prenatal care. No infant should be discharged without documentation of the mother's status. A non-treponemal test (RPR or VDRL) is preferred for screening.

This high morbidity designation should be temporary. I will keep you posted. As we make progress in reducing the incidence of syphilis in the county, I will remove the designation.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns about this high morbidity designation. I can be reached at my direct line at 559 852 2876. Please contact me or Lucy Thompson, FNP, with questions about syphilis diagnosis or management. Her direct line is 559 852 2619.

Sincerely,

*Lucy Thompson, NP
signing for Dr. Mac Lean*

Michael Mac Lean, M.D., M.S.