



COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

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County Health Officer Issues Order Mandating Children’s Dental Group of Anaheim Cease Use of Facility Water for Dental Procedures

(Santa Ana, CA) – The County of Orange Health Officer today issued a Health Officer Order that requires the Children’s Dental Group of Anaheim to cease the use of that facility’s on-site water system for any patient dental procedures.

The Health Care Agency’s (HCA) Public Health Laboratory has confirmed that multiple samples taken from the dental office’s internal on-site water system on September 7, 2016 have tested positive for mycobacterium that is similar to the *Mycobacteria chelonae/abscessus* that has caused infections in 1 confirmed and 9 probable pediatric patient cases.

“I am issuing this order to protect the health of the dental office patients,” said Dr. Eric Handler, Public Health Officer. “I’m requiring a complete replacement of the on-site water system so that we will remove the potential threat of infection.”

When the conditions below are met to the satisfaction of the County Health Officer, the order will be lifted:

- The facility must provide a written plan for replacement of the current on-site water system for review and approval by HCA.
- Upon HCA-approval of the plan, the facility must fully implement the plan to replace all equipment that could potentially be a source of *Mycobacterium* as indicated by laboratory testing.
- All on-site water system renovation and replacement must be reviewed by HCA, including laboratory testing as appropriate, to assure patient safety.

California Health and Safety Code Sections 120130 and 120175 and California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 2501, requires the County Health Officer or designees to take whatever steps deemed necessary for the investigation and control of reported communicable diseases.

For additional information:

- A list of Frequently Asked Questions for concerned parents is available on HCA's website in both English and Spanish at www.ochealthinfo.com/dentaloutbreak.
- If parents have concerns about the care their children received at this facility, the Dental Board of California encourages them to file a written report at dbc.ca.gov/consumers/complaint_info.shtml.

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