September 27, 2017

TO: LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS
    LOCAL REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS
    CHIEF DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS
    BIRTH CLERKS

SUBJECT: ELECTRONIC BIRTH REGISTRATION SYSTEM UPDATE – IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE REVISION

As previously announced, the Center for Health Statistics and Informatics (CHSI) is working to replace the legacy Automated Vital Statistics System (AVSS) with the electronic Birth Registration System (EBRS). The new system is designed to operate more like the electronic Fetal Death Registration System (FDRS) in use today, with a graphical user interface, entry screen enhancements, and reporting functions. Development and implementation of EBRS is being accomplished with our current EDRS and FDRS provider, the University of California, Davis with the assistance of the University of California, Santa Barbara AVSS staff.

With EBRS, CHSI is seeking to increase system efficiency and effectiveness, and to enhance data quality and timeliness. To accomplish this, CHSI is incorporating the collective experience shared with the current systems, paired with a number of enhancements requested by certificate originators, local health department registration and reporting staff, and staff from CHSI’s state operations.

The original schedule anticipated a simultaneous conversion from AVSS to EBRS in January, 2018. Given the scope and complexity of the system and the need to perform a smooth transition, CHSI has reconsidered the implementation approach. There is now a “phased conversion,” similar to that originally accomplished by AVSS in the 1980’s and by the EDRS system in the early 2000’s. CHSI anticipates beginning with two counties in April 2018, followed by two months of operations in those counties. Once that phase is successful, CHSI will begin converting from AVSS to EBRS in counties at an anticipated rate of ten (10) counties per month. This schedule will allow complete transition to EBRS by January 1, 2019.

CHSI staff are developing the implementation schedule for EBRS, taking into account population size, number of birthing hospitals and geographic considerations. Before the new schedule is finalized, CHSI will consult with each county to discuss the proposed plan.
Anticipated implementation schedule:

April 2018 – Two (2) county initial rollout, lasting for approximately two (2) months, and incorporate lessons learned.
June 2018 – Statewide rollout begins at an average rate of ten (10) counties per month.
January 1, 2019 – EBRS transition complete.

Thank you for your time and assistance as we move through this important transition. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Laura Lund at Laura.Lund@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Jim Greene, MD, MS
State Registrar
Deputy Director
Center for Health Statistics and Informatics