April 3, 2020

MEMO RE: HOSPITAL DISCHARGE APPROVAL FOR COVID-19 PENDING AND POSITIVE PATIENTS

Due to the critically impacted stocks of suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) available in the County of Riverside, in an effort to slow PPE utilization, hospital discharge approval for COVID-19 pending and positive patients is suspended.

Discharge approval may be reinstated by subsequent order at any time while the present local emergency is in effect, in accordance with the emergency powers of the public health officer under California Health and Safety Code §101040. In addition, this in no way waives any clearance requirement which may be established for returning to work or sensitive settings, nor does discharge per se count as such clearance.

Hospitals are advised that they will be held responsible for a discharge which results in a preventable COVID-19 exposure.

Attentively,

Cameron Kaiser, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Public Health Officer
County of Riverside