

KERN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Grounded in Health



Director's Message

Being born and raised in Kern County, it is an incredible honor to serve as your Director of Kern County Public Health and be able to give back to the community that has been a staple in making me who I am today. Our team is made up of a diverse group from all different walks of life and with various life experiences. As you interact with us, I believe you will find that we very much relate to the community we serve. In fact, for many of us, it is our very own life experiences within Kern County that gives us the drive and passion to do the work we do for our community.

Our department is committed to protecting and promoting the health and safety of our community and we do so through our services, outreach, and messaging. We use data, community input, and our community health assessment and community health improvement plans to develop programs and services to address Kern County's greatest

needs, which means our services are constantly changing and evolving. We also prioritize health equity and strive to ensure each Kern County resident has a fair opportunity to reach optimal health.

This catalog serves as a snapshot of who Kern County Public Health is and an index of how we diversely serve our residents. We believe in meeting our community where they are, which is why mobilizing our services has become a mission critical goal of our department. Our nurses make home visits; our mobile health clinic brings health services directly to your community; our health inspectors ensure the safety of the places you eat, sleep, work and play in; our Know Your Numbers program travels throughout Kern County providing fitness and nutrition education to areas convenient to you; and our Waste Hunger Not Food program distributes healthy, wholesome food within your neighborhoods.

We are here to serve you and to enhance your quality of life. We look forward to working together towards a healthier Kern County!



Brynn Carriogan

Director • Kern County Public Health



Grounded in Health

Mother and Child Health



This program strives to decrease inequities and mortality rates for mother and child by empowering and providing support to black women. Group meetings are held weekly and include topics such as handling stress, eating healthy, advocating for mom and baby's health at doctor appointments, and so much more!



California Children's Services

This program provides medical case management services for eligible patients aged 21 and younger, including: Diagnostic and treatment services for chronic conditions, physical and occupational therapy services delivered at medical therapy units, assistance with transportation, lodging, and other resources needed to access medical appointments and services.

Child Health and Disability Program

This program provides case management services to eligible families with children under the age of 21 to assist families with medical appointment scheduling, transportation, and access to diagnostic and treatment services.



Foster Care

Public Health Nurses serve the medical needs of children in foster care.

This program links foster children and families to services and assists with the medical, dental, mental, and developmental needs of these children.

Immunization Program

This program is aimed at providing all Kern County children and adults access to immunizations, guidance, education, and support to local providers, schools, and daycare facilities.

Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Families with children 0 – 5 years of age are referred by local hospitals to this data driven program that helps navigate the medical system, secure services, and troubleshoot medical issues that arise.

Services may include monitoring babies' health status, ensuring medical appointments are scheduled and attended, and helping find medications not filled or available at specific pharmacies.



Nurse Family Partnership

An evidence-based program to help new mothers develop skills to take better care of themselves and their babies.

Those who qualify for services will have a dedicated specially trained nurse providing home visits during pregnancy and throughout the first two years of your child's life.

Perinatal Outreach Program

Striving to improve the lives of children and women in our community, qualifying women receive case management services, including education on pregnancy, infancy care, breast feeding, and maternal services and connecting participants with community services based upon needs.

Operation Saving Smiles

This program partners with schools and pediatric medical providers to refer patients to dental providers. This program maintains a list of dental providers that see children and helps bridge the gap in accessing dental services.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

AIDS Drug Assistance Program

This program serves people 18 years and older with HIV and assists with accessing appropriate medication and vaccinations, regardless of insurance status.

Health Education Linkage Program

This program assists people living with HIV to be able to maintain optimal health by providing case management; dental, vision, and food assistance; and housing services and information.

HIV Prevention Program

This program offers free, rapid HIV testing; navigation and education services for medications to help prevent HIV, such as PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) and PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis); and linkage to Rapid Antiretroviral Treatment (ART), STD/HIV testing, and harm reduction/syringe exchange programs.

A photograph of a young man and woman embracing on a beach at sunset. The man is in the foreground, smiling broadly with his eyes closed. The woman is behind him, also smiling and hugging him. The background shows the ocean and a bright, hazy sky.

Housing Opportunities for People Living with AIDS

This program provides housing and supportive services to people with HIV and their families, including short-term rent and mortgage assistance, tenant-based rental assistance, hotel/motel assistance and vouchers, and permanent housing assistance such as utilities fees.

Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Collaborative

A communitywide STD and HIV initiative that includes partners in education, and non-profit organizations. Together our goal is to improve the health of our residents by reducing the incidence of STDs and HIV through education, prevention services, and ensuring residents have access to information and medical services.

Ryan White Program

This program provides case management services to qualifying individuals with a current HIV diagnosis and meeting specific income status.

Case management services include oral healthcare and laboratory testing.

Staying Healthy



Foodborne Illness

This program responds to reports of potential foodborne illness.

If our investigation confirms foodborne illness, we work with stakeholders to assess food handling, serving and other practices, and take appropriate action to ensure the safety of our community.

Waste Hunger Not Food

This program rescues wholesome food that would have otherwise been wasted from schools and distributes it free to those in our community who are experiencing hunger.



Health Equity

This program identifies community needs, decreases barriers to services, and works address gaps our community faces.

Clinic

We provide preventative care and treatment services including:

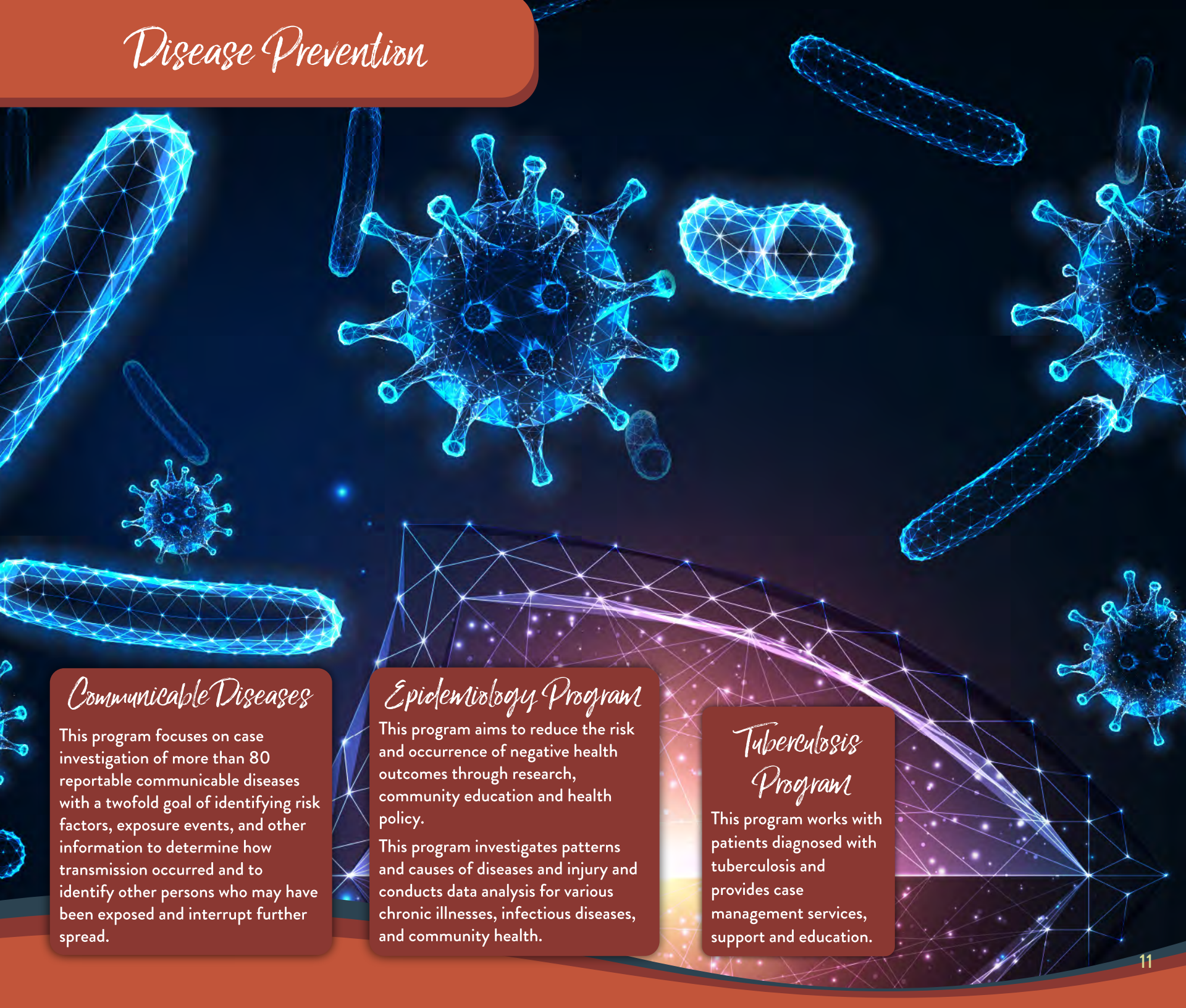
- Child and adult immunizations
- STD and HIV testing and treatment
- Well-child exams
- Tuberculosis testing
- Pregnancy tests
- Family planning services, including birth control

Tobacco Prevention

The Tobacco Prevention Program is aimed at reducing the use of tobacco products, as well as exposure to second and third-hand smoke. This work includes providing education and trainings, participating in community events, and working with various coalitions and partners.

The Tobacco Retail Program includes employing an underaged decoy that is sent into permitted facilities to assess the willingness to sell tobacco products to those who are underaged. This program permits and routinely inspects facilities that sell tobacco. *(This program has been implemented in all areas of the County of Kern, with the exception of the City of Ridgecrest)*

Disease Prevention



Communicable Diseases

This program focuses on case investigation of more than 80 reportable communicable diseases with a twofold goal of identifying risk factors, exposure events, and other information to determine how transmission occurred and to identify other persons who may have been exposed and interrupt further spread.

Epidemiology Program

This program aims to reduce the risk and occurrence of negative health outcomes through research, community education and health policy.

This program investigates patterns and causes of diseases and injury and conducts data analysis for various chronic illnesses, infectious diseases, and community health.

Tuberculosis Program

This program works with patients diagnosed with tuberculosis and provides case management services, support and education.



Public Health Laboratory

The Lab provides laboratory testing services and support for community health providers to aid in the diagnosis and control of communicable diseases and promote a healthy environment. Services include:

- Testing for endemic diseases such as Valley Fever
- Testing for STDs and HIV
- Testing for foodborne illness and recreational water pathogens
- Evaluate emerging pathogens or bioterrorism



Valley Fever

Kern County Public Health's Valley Fever efforts aim to reduce illness in the community and ensure residents know how to protect themselves. To accomplish this goal the department tracks Valley Fever cases to understand how the disease is affecting the community; through public awareness campaigns and our Valley Fever website we offer guidance for staying safe in dusty conditions and help people recognize symptoms; we work with local clinics and community organizations to support testing and early diagnosis. These activities empower our residents to reduce their risk and seek care early leading to better outcomes.

Childhood Safety



Car Seat Program

This program provides residents with access to and education regarding the proper installation and use of car seats to assist in keeping your family as safe as possible in the event of an accident.

Car seat installation education is free.

Car seats are available and free to those who meet income requirements.

Child Death Review Team and Fetal Infant Mortality Review Program

The Child Death Review Team aims to reduce preventable child deaths through multi-disciplinary case reviews. These reviews are done to identify the causes and circumstances of these deaths to design strategies aimed at preventing deaths in the future.

The Fetal Infant Mortality Review Program works closely with the Child Death Review Team and reviews infant deaths, identifying areas for improvements in services provided and barriers to assistance needed.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

This program seeks to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by identifying and eliminating sources of lead exposure.

This program also provides proactive education and outreach to children and families regarding potential lead exposure in their environment.

Help your baby sleep **SAFELY**



NO

NO soft objects
NO loose bedding



NO bumper pads
NO stuffed animals
NO pillows



DON'T leave your
baby asleep in a car
seat or carrier



DON'T have your
baby sleep with you
or anyone else in a
bed, couch, or in a chair

Back to sleep for **EVERY** sleep

YES



- Use a firm sleep surface
- Keep soft objects and loose bedding away from the infant's sleep area to reduce the risk of SIDS, suffocation, entrapment, and strangulation.

Safe Sleep Education

We provide safe sleep education to families and women who are pregnant or have an infant less than one year old.

Safe Activities



Blue Green Algae

This program monitors cyanobacteria levels in Kern's recreational bodies of water and updates signage accordingly so you can boat, fish, and swim safely. Look for our signs around Lake Isabella and Buena Vista Lake.

Body Art Program

This program ensures shops that provide tattoos, body piercings, branding or application of permanent cosmetics are operating safely. We check for cleanliness of equipment, hand washing, and any risks that may harm the artist or client's health.

Food Program

This program permits and routinely inspects more than 5,300 facilities that serve and/or prepare food. These inspections ensure that food is safe for our community to eat and that facilities are operating in accordance with State law.



Massage Program

This program permits and annually inspects massage facilities to ensure staff have proper certifications and the facility and equipment is clean and sanitary.

Public Swimming Pools

This program permits and annually inspects all public pools to ensure they are operating safely. Inspections include checking pH and chlorine levels, as well as evaluating pool equipment and facilities to ensure they are well maintained and operating correctly.

This program also regulates and permits the construction, installation, and repair of all public swimming pools.

Unpermitted Food Vendor Program

This program responds to complaints received regarding food vendors operating without the proper permits.

If a complaint is founded, the team provides education to the vendor and assist the vendor with obtaining the required health permits for safe operations.

Keeping Kern Safe

TWO STEPS TO SAVE A LIFE

1 Call 911



2 Push hard and fast in the center of the chest



Don't drop the beat!
Know it. Feel it. Push it. Keep it.

Emergency Response

Our on-call emergency response teams respond to emergencies, often in conjunction with other agencies, involving food, sewage or hazardous materials/waste to ensure that proper clean-up and disposal occurs to ensure public safety.

Emergency Medical Services

Through authority granted by California Health and Safety Code and California Code of Regulations, this program creates, monitors, and oversees the emergency medical services system for the appropriate delivery of emergency medical care to the people within Kern County.

Hands Only CPR Program

This program offers free hands-only CPR training and education to the community.

Training is quick, easy, and free and CPR has been proven to save lives.

NARCAN Distribution

This program provides training and distributes NARCAN for free to members of our community in an attempt to prevent opioid overdoses.

Regional Disaster Medical and Health Coordinator Program

Established through California Health and Safety Code Section 1797.152, the program coordinates disaster information and medical and health mutual aid assistance for counties within our region.



Vial of Life

speaks for you
when you can't

Using Vial of Life in your home:

- Place the Vial of Life on the top shelf of your freezer
- Put the magnet onto your refrigerator
- Stick the decal near your front door

Using Vial of Life in your car:

- Place the Vial of Life in your glove box
- Stick the decal on your windshield

Always be sure that all of the information is up to date and readable for first responders in the event of an emergency.

Keeping Kern Safe

Hazardous Material Program

The program permits and routinely inspects facilities that store and/or generate hazardous material/waste .

Inspections include facilities with underground storage tanks, aboveground storage tanks, hazardous material business plans, and facilities that fall under the California Accidental Release Program.

The purpose of these inspections are to ensure proper handling and storage of hazardous materials/waste and that hazardous materials/waste inventories are current and available for first responders in the event of an emergency.

Housing Program

This program permits and routinely inspects hotels and motels, detention facilities and organized camps for compliance with State requirements for sanitation, maintenance, occupancy, use and ventilation.

Land Development Program

This program works closely with Kern County's Planning and Natural Resources Department and reviews new and tentative land uses for proposed water supply, sewage disposal methods and preservation of environmental quality.

Solid Waste Program

The program permits and routinely inspect solid waste facilities as defined in the Public Resource Code (PRC) and California Code of Regulations (CCR).

Our primary responsibilities are to oversee the handling, processing, and/or disposal of non-hazardous solid wastes; monitor vector control issues; and monitor odors, litter, gas migration.



Medical Waste

This program permits and routinely inspects facilities that generate medical waste as defined by the California Medical Waste Management Act.

Our primary responsibilities are to ensure that medical waste is handled and disposed of properly and within State requirements.

Pumper Vehicle Program

In accordance with State law, this program permits and inspects vehicles that pump, transport and dispose of septic, grease trap, and portable toilet waste.

Septic Systems

This program establishes standards for the installation and operation of septic systems and onsite wastewater treatment systems. The installation of septic and onsite wastewater treatment systems are permitted and inspected to protect surface water, groundwater quality, and prevent health hazards.

Water Wells and Systems

This program assures that small public water systems supply drinking water that is protected against potential contamination.

Small public water system regulation is accomplished through inspections, bacteriological and chemical sampling, plan checks, permitting, well log review, enforcement, and public education.

This program also regulates and permits the construction installation, destruction, and repair of all water wells.

Our Mission and Vision

Our Mission:

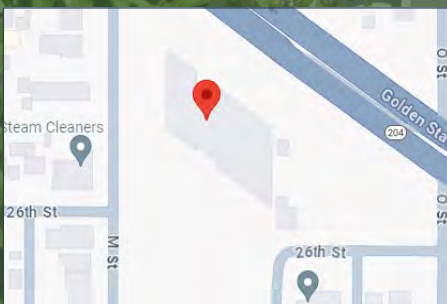
Our mission is to protect and promote the health and safety of the community we serve.

Our Vision:

The communities of Kern will play, eat, and work safely and have accessible health services for all.

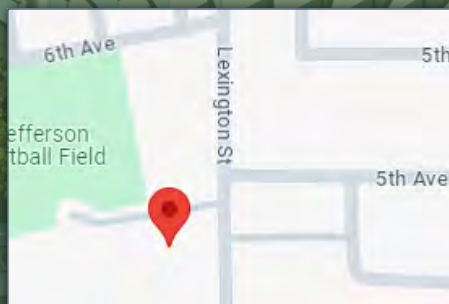
Main office:

1800 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93306



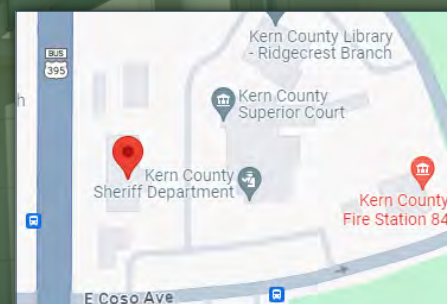
Environmental Health

2700 M Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301



Delano

455 Lexington Street
Delano, CA 93215



Ridgecrest

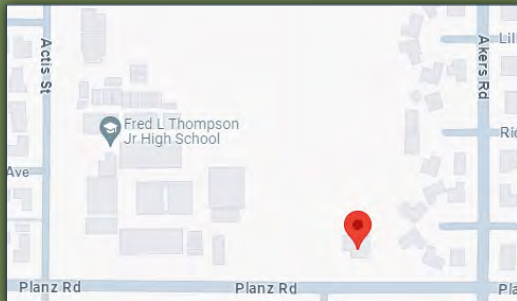
400 N China Lake Boulevard
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Call Center (661) 321-3000

publichealth@kerncounty.com

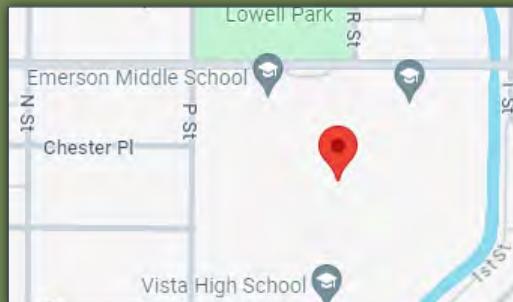
EH@kerncounty.com

askSTDclinic@kerncounty.com



**Thompson
Junior High School
Medical Therapy Unit**

4110 Planz Road
Bakersfield, CA 93309



**McKinley
Elementary School
Medical Therapy Unit**

601 4th Street, Room 35,
Bakersfield, CA 93304

Vital Statistics

This program processes and provides certified copies of birth and death certificates.

Processes amendments to birth and death certificates.

Issues burial permits.



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