



HEALTH DIVISION

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Testimony Regarding Measles Outbreak

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Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee on Health Policy, we are here representing the Oakland County Health Division which provides public health services for Oakland County's 1.2 million people.

Today I am speaking on the impact and response the Measles outbreak has had on our Health Division and more importantly our community.

In Oakland County alone, there have been 40 confirmed cases of measles to date. We're hopeful and cautiously optimistic that we may soon stop further spread of this preventable disease. If we're able to do this, it will be due to an immediate, coordinated response from our staff and community. An initial conservative estimate of the cost to our Health Division is almost \$200,000. Much of this cost includes necessary staff response during all hours and days of the week, including:

- Issuing multiple press releases and giving almost seventy media interviews to local and national outlets.
- Responding to over 2,000 phone & email inquiries to our Nurse-On-Call.
- Developing guidance documents to healthcare providers, schools and childcare centers.
- Giving almost 3,000 MMR vaccinations, which is approximately 20-fold increase from the year before.
- Providing immunoglobulin to dozens of people who were medically unable to be vaccinated.

This doesn't include the impact on the community. Dozens of exposed under/unvaccinated children in school and childcare centers needed to be excluded until we could be sure they wouldn't develop measles. Many of the people who called into our Nurse-On-Call expressed concern at their risk of catching measles.

However, the community response and coordination with our Health Division has been inspiring. We organized 17 successful outreach clinics, most of which were in the affected community. Dr. Steve McGraw, the entire Hatzalah Emergency Medical Services team, and Dr. Janet Snider, a local pediatrician, were invaluable local leaders who partnered to identify and treat cases and coordinate prevention messages within the community. This essential relationship elicited trust in the community and enabled Health Division staff to travel into homes to help affected families.

Because Measles is so infectious, it is often one of the first vaccine preventable diseases to cause outbreaks when vaccine levels in the community aren't maintained. We have witnessed serious illness and long-term complications, such as pneumonia and vision impairments. Let's learn from this outbreak and let it be a reminder to us of the importance of vaccinations.

Thank you for allowing us to provide this testimony today.