



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 25, 2019

Via Email (grandjury@sanmateocourt.org)

The Honorable Donald J. Ayoob
Judge of the Superior Court
c/o Charlene Kreseovich
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: Response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report entitled "Is San Mateo County at Risk of a Large Measles Outbreak?"

Dear Judge Ayoob:

The San Mateo-Foster City School District (the "District") has received and reviewed the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report entitled "Is San Mateo County at Risk of a Large Measles Outbreak?" We appreciate the Grand Jury's interest in this matter. Having reviewed and considered the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations, the District responds as follows, pursuant to section 933.05 of the California Penal Code:

FINDINGS

1. *Outbreaks of measles occur when an infected individual enters an under-immunized community.*

The District agrees that the outbreak or spread of preventable diseases such as measles may occur when an infected individual comes into contact with non-immunized individuals.

2. *For the 2017/18 school year, the overall measles vaccination rate for public and private school students in San Mateo County exceeded the 93 percent herd immunity level experts say is needed to protect the community as a whole.*

The District cannot agree or disagree with this Finding, as the District did not conduct the research cited in the Report on which this Finding is based. The District therefore defers to the Grand Jury with regard to this Finding.

3. *Following the January 1, 2016, effective date of SB 227, use of the personal belief exemption dropped from two percent of students to zero in San Mateo County.*



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The District cannot agree or disagree with this Finding, as the District did not conduct the research cited in the Report on which this Finding is based. The District therefore defers to the Grand Jury with regard to this Finding.

4. *Schools that admit students with overdue vaccinations create pockets of unimmunized individuals that may facilitate the development of a measles outbreak.*

The District agrees that schools that admit students with overdue vaccinations may create pockets of unimmunized individuals that may facilitate the development of a measles outbreak. Pursuant to District Policy, the District cooperates with state and local public health agencies to encourage and facilitate immunization of all district students against preventable diseases in order to protect the health of all students and staff and to curtail the spread of infectious diseases such as measles. It is for this reason that, in accordance with California law, District Policy provides that “[e]ach student enrolling for the first time in a district school after July 1, 2016, enrolling in or advancing to grade 7 shall present an immunization record from any authorized private or public health care provider certifying that he/she has received all required immunizations in accordance with law. Students shall be excluded from school or exempted from immunization requirements only as allowed by law.”

5. *The vaccination status of some schoolchildren – notably those who are home-schooled and those in schools with fewer than 20 students – is unknown.*

The District agrees with this Finding.

6. *Adults born after 1957 who never had a measles infection and who lack sufficient vaccination may also be at risk of a measles infection.*

The District agrees that adults born after 1957 who never had a measles infection and who lack sufficient vaccination may also be at risk of a measles infection.

7. *Recent outbreaks in Washington State, New York, and Los Angeles illustrate that pockets of unvaccinated people can pose a risk of outbreaks.*

The District agrees that recent outbreaks in Washington State, New York, and Los Angeles illustrate that pockets of unvaccinated people can pose a risk of outbreaks.

8. *Testing for measles immunity at County clinics could identify pockets of people susceptible to measles.*

The District agrees with this Finding.

9. *The resources of the SMCDC, which identifies and tracks measles cases in San Mateo County, may be inadequate to contain a major outbreak.*



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The District cannot agree or disagree with this Finding, as the District did not conduct the research cited in the Report on which this Finding is based. The District therefore defers to the Grand Jury with regard to this Finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *School districts that enrolled students who did not meet state vaccination requirements for the 2018/2019 school year should report to their Governing Board whether overdue vaccinations have been completed by October 1, 2019 and the Governing Boards of these districts should publish updated vaccination data for its schools on the school district's website by November 1, 2019.*

During 2018/2019 school year, the San Mateo-Foster City School District met all state required vaccination requirements. The District did not enroll any students with overdue vaccinations or a Personal Belief Exemptions (PBE). Any student already enrolled in the District on a PBE and rising to the next required checkpoint were supported and provided resources to allow the student to complete the required MMR (Measles) vaccination. All medical exemptions were signed by a licensed physician and up-to-date.

All required immunization data is filed annually with San Mateo County. The District will publish updated vaccination data on the District's website by November 1, 2019.

2. *Beginning with the 2019/2020 school year, school districts that enroll students who do not meet vaccination requirements in subsequent school years should report to their Governing Board whether overdue vaccinations have been completed by March 31 of each year, and the **Governing Board should publish updated vaccination data for its schools on the school district's website.***

The safety of students, staff and families is a priority to the San Mateo-Foster City School District. In the 2019/2020 year, two students were conditionally enrolled and families were provided resources to ensure that both students received their required immunizations within the first month of the school year. The District did not enroll any students with overdue vaccinations or a Personal Belief Exemptions (PBE). A student with a previous PBE on file was provided resources necessary to complete all required vaccinations during the first month of the school year. The District will publish updated vaccination data on the District's website by November 1, 2019.

3. *The San Mateo County Health Communicable Disease Control Program should study the feasibility of testing people visiting San Mateo County clinics for their level of measles immunity. The results of the study should be reported to the San Mateo County Health Department Board by January 1, 2020.*



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The District lacks sufficient knowledge or information regarding the San Mateo County Health Communicable Disease Control Program's ability to implement this Recommendation, but generally supports any and all reasonable efforts by state and local public health agencies to protect the health of those in the community and to curtail the spread of preventable infectious diseases.

4. *Within three months of this report, the San Mateo County Health Communicable Disease Control Program should request funding for upgrading the resources needed to address outbreaks of measles and other communicable diseases from the Chief of the San Mateo County Health Department. San Mateo County Health should respond within three months of receiving those requests.*

The District lacks sufficient knowledge or information regarding the San Mateo County Health Communicable Disease Control Program's ability to implement this Recommendation, but generally supports any and all reasonable efforts by state and local public health agencies to protect the health of those in the community and to curtail the spread of preventable infectious diseases.

Please be advised that Both the Grand Jury Report and the District's responses were presented to and approved by the District's Governing Board on October 3, 2019.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Joan Rosas, Ed.D.
Superintendent
San Mateo-Foster City School District