

# San Mateo Union High School District

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December 17, 2020

*Via Email (grandjury@sanmateocourt.org)*

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

*Re: Response to the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report entitled "Is San Mateo County at Risk of a Large Measles Outbreak?"*

Dear Judge Ayoob:

The San Mateo Union High School 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 will implement this Recommendation if warranted and appropriate based on the results of the District's confidential internal report.**

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.*

**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. Therefore, students will 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.*

**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.*

**The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) believes that our current practices are legally**

**compliant under 17 CCR section 6075 and adequately address public safety issues. 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.**

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 recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) believes that our current practices are legally compliant under 17 CCR section 6075 and adequately address public safety issues.**

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.*

**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 December 17, 2020.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin Skelly, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

San Mateo Union High School District