

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

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Funding for Health at Stake: Empowering Communities to Vaccinate Today

The role of vaccination and immunization in preventing disease is indispensable. Research consistently shows that vaccines are crucial in preventing communicable disease. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), immunization prevents approximately 3.5 million to 5 million deaths per year from preventable diseases like measles, influenza, Hepatitis A, and COVID-19, among others. It is imperative that people receive accurate vaccine education because communicable diseases continue to put communities at risk. For example, so far this year, California has had more cases of measles than it did in all of 2024. Measles is a vaccine-preventable infectious disease that can lead to severe complications. This highlights the critical importance of sustaining vaccination efforts and educating the public to prevent the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Recent federal decisions have placed vaccine funding under significant strain. Under their new award through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Immunization Cooperative agreement, the Los Angeles County Department of Public

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Health (DPH) received a 26% cut to the Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program, directly impacting local immunization efforts. On a national level, it is clear that vaccines and public health funding are under attack. The CDC has lost thousands of staff and experienced funding cuts of billions of dollars. The National Institute of Health (NIH) budget has also been slashed, putting the funding of vaccine research in jeopardy.

With vaccinations under attack by the US Secretary of Health and Human Services, now more than ever, it is vital that the people of LA County are educated on the facts about vaccinations, can identify misinformation, and are informed about the risk that the spread of communicable diseases poses. Vaccination guidance must be aligned with national provider organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, who will continue to serve as a source of trusted information on vaccine recommendations. As vaccine funding faces serious cuts, it is vital that vaccine education and resources are maintained.

Unprecedented times and losses of funding call for vaccine education and leveraging existing resources. Without stable funding, vaccine education campaigns can be stalled, and vaccine outreach to underserved communities could disappear. It is essential to collaborate with trusted community partners that have served their communities for decades, earning deep-rooted trust. It is crucial to continue this critical work and prepare for the vaccine push at the end of summer and early fall, coinciding with the back-to-school and the respiratory season.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide a written report back to the Board in 60 days, including:

1. All current and potential future financial impacts to the DPH Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program, including the services that have already been curtailed and those that could be affected.
2. The current services, programs, and funding available that promote and provide routine vaccinations for communicable diseases, including but not limited to, MMR, HPV, COVID-19, and Hepatitis A.
3. Identifying communities, populations, and geographic areas of greatest need for vaccine education, awareness, and services.
4. A plan to swiftly maximize the use of current resources that may be vulnerable to cuts or rescissions.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct DPH to coordinate with partner organizations including community providers and schools, to educate their communities about the following topics:

1. The benefits, safety, and effectiveness of routine and seasonal vaccinations to patients and families.
2. The importance of vaccinations for high-risk individuals (e.g. pregnant persons, older adults, those with underlying conditions) including those in congregate living facilities (SNFs, shelters).
3. How to identify misinformation and provide accurate and easily accessible information about vaccines.
4. Information about locations within their community for free or low-cost vaccines.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct DPH to ensure providers have clear guidance on routine and recommended vaccinations through the following platforms:

1. Dissemination of information through health advisories, presentations, and site visits to provider organizations.
2. Access to accurate and timely information on vaccine-preventable diseases and immunization resources through DPH's Vaccine Provider Information Hub at ph.lacounty.gov/vaccines.

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