



Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations

November 1, 2019

2019 COMMISSION

Chair

Travis Gayles, MD, PhD

Members

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Rosalyn Stewart, MD

Tiffany Tate, MHS

Sara Vazer, MD

Roseann Velez, DNP

STAFF

Kurt Seetoo, MPH

kurt.seetoo@maryland.gov

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan, Chair Pinsky, and Chair Pendergrass:

In accordance with Health-General Article §18-214(k), the Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations (the Commission) is submitting this annual report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee. The Commission is charged with determining where community vaccine shortages exist, developing recommendations for equitable distribution of vaccines, making recommendations for how to increase immunizations, and studying and making recommendations about other vaccine-related issues.

The Commission held three meetings in February, May, and September of Calendar Year 2019. Dr. Travis Gayles, Health Officer for Montgomery County, was identified and selected as the new Chairperson and assumed this role at the beginning of the year. The Commission continues to discuss the possibility of adding new members pursuant to compliance with the State charter. The Commission also discussed and reviewed the State's response to this year's measles outbreak, including reviewing vaccine availability and cross-jurisdictional responses. In addition, the Commission identified two priority topics to address, expanded response capacity and outreach.

Enhanced response capacity. The Commission discussed building a mechanism to respond to emergent immunization-related situations in a timely manner and contribute to the local and national discourse regarding vaccines and outbreaks (such as the recent measles outbreak in Maryland), while providing feedback for local communities. The Commission will continue to explore collaborative opportunities, including potential partnerships with local academic institutions to promote information regarding immunizations through social media and other relevant venues.

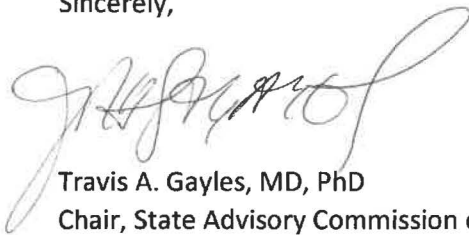
Expanded scope of outreach. Recognizing the need for increased presence and opportunities to expand the work of the Commission, particularly related to education and outreach, the

Commission created four subgroups to address priority areas: special populations, legislation and advocacy, global communications and outreach, and innovations and technology. Each subgroup met during the summer and has designed action plans to create ongoing efforts and continued engagement of the Commission throughout the year. For example, the special populations subgroup initiated efforts to promote Maryland MyIR, the State's new system that allows families to check their immunization records entered into ImmuNet. More readily available access to their immunization records will inform the parents if their child(ren) meet the school immunization requirements which in turn will assist schools in tracking immunization compliance.

In 2020, the Commission aims to utilize the newly formed subcommittees to increase the Commission's impact with ongoing dialogue related to immunization issues, including responses to outbreaks, increasing uptake of immunizations within vulnerable populations, building and identifying and supporting best practices related to vaccine education and outreach.

This letter shall serve as the Commission's annual report for Calendar Year 2019. If you have any questions, please contact me at 240-777-1741 or travis.gayles@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis A. Gayles', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Travis A. Gayles, MD, PhD
Chair, State Advisory Commission on Immunizations

cc: Webster Ye, JD, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs
Frances B. Phillips, RN, MHA, Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services
Donna Gugel, MHS, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
David Blythe, MD, MPH, Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau
Sarah T. Albert MSAR #8248