September 3, 2021

Mr. Wes Nakagiri

Chairman, Livingston County Board of Commissioners

304 E. Grand River Ave.

Suite 201

Howell, MI 48843

Via email: commissioners@livgov.com

Dear Chairman Nakagiri:

We are writing to urge the Livingston County Board of Commissioners to reconsider its recent vote on a resolution to accept state funding for COVID 19 response activities in the county. We were extremely disappointed in the Board's failure to approve this resolution, at a recent meeting, that would have provided for critical resources for the Livingston County Health Department's COVID 19 response efforts.

As you know, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services funding, available to the Livingston County Health Department, includes over $1.5 million for the Department's immunization efforts, contact tracing, case investigation and infection control measures. It is our understanding that without this funding several grant funded positions will be eliminated including nurses, epidemiologists and clerical positions which are essential to Livingston County Health Department's response to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Our health systems have worked hand in hand over the last 18 months with local public health departments across the state to address the challenges posed by this pandemic. The partnership between our two health systems and the Livingston county Public health department has allowed us to jointly address the challenges of this pandemic in Livingston county, ensuring that residents of the county have access to critical resources in our collective effort to control the virus and mitigate its further spread in the county.

We are now in the fourth surge of the virus across our state and are continuing to see an increase in COVID cases and hospitalizations. Having recently surpassed a statewide daily census of more than 1,000 individuals hospitalized in our state, we are concerned about the potential for the situation to worsen and impact our ability to care for both Covid and Non – Covid patients in our hospitals this Fall.

We are especially concerned about the health and safety of the most vulnerable populations in our county including the elderly, those with co-existing medical conditions, children who are not yet vaccinated and our frontline healthcare workers. In many cases these individuals are not able to physically access these services at the Livingston County Health Department because of transportation

barriers and subsequently Health Department staff use some of this critical funding to deliver services to them in their homes and/or in their local communities.

We urge the Board of Commissioners to reconsider its position regarding this resolution and support this funding which is critical to ensure that Livingston county has all the resources available to address this latest surge of the virus across our county. Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us if you have questions and/or concerns regarding our support of this funding.

Sincerely,



John F. O'Malley, MSA, MBA, FACHE

President, Administration

St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital & Brighton Health Center



 

David C. Miller, M.D., M.P.H.

President, U-M Health System

Executive Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs, Medical School

 

 Cc: Nathan Burd, County Administrator nburd@livgov.com