



Hillsborough County Medical Association
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**HCMA Position Statement
February 29, 2024
Measles Outbreak**

The Hillsborough County Medical Association (HCMA) strongly supports immunizations to protect our communities from highly communicable and deadly diseases.

Although measles was declared eliminated in the United States in the 2000s, there have been several recent and significant measles outbreaks in our country. According to the Florida Department of Health, Florida now has ten reported cases of measles with nine reports in Broward County – all of which are children.

Immunizations are an important form of primary prevention. Policies that weaken vaccination requirements and misinformation that erodes confidence in vaccines have become part of a political agenda, causing rates of measles vaccination among young children to fall below critical levels. Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies and children, with serious cases leading to blindness, brain infection, and even death.

The HCMA concurs with the Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the World Health Organization, that vaccines are very effective in protecting children and preventing complications caused by serious diseases.

The HCMA recommends that parents talk with their pediatrician or family physician about vaccination benefits, perceived risks, and what is best for their child.

Michael Cromer, M.D.
President

Established in 1895, the Hillsborough County Medical Association, Inc., is a membership organization of over 2,700 physicians and medical students in Hillsborough and surrounding counties; advocating for physicians and the health of the communities we serve.

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