Executive Order 2008-23

To Spend Money from the Health Crisis Fund on Measles Outbreak Control

WHEREAS, measles is one of the most contagious diseases with the potential for explosive spread; and

WHEREAS, some people infected with measles develop complications, including pneumonia, ear infections, seizures and permanent brain damage; and

WHEREAS, 21 measles cases representing five generations of spread have been identified in Pima County; and

WHEREAS, timely and proficient laboratory testing of measles specimens by the Arizona State Laboratory is required to confirm the diagnosis of measles; and

WHEREAS, vaccination is the best protection against measles; and

WHEREAS, susceptible people include the immunocompromised, infants under one year of age, and people who have not been vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, aggressive and timely outbreak control measures, such as ring vaccination of exposed individuals, isolation, quarantine, contact tracing, suspect case follow-up, and special vaccination clinics, are expensive and resource intensive; and

WHEREAS, already 6,000 potentially exposed individuals have already required monitoring; and

WHEREAS, Pima County Health Department and other providers over the last four months have been administering approximately 20,000 doses of measles vaccine to undervaccinated Pima County residents through ring vaccination of exposed individuals, and ongoing county measles clinics; and

WHEREAS, these circumstance are, at this time, neither a contingency nor an emergency pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 26-301 or 35-192 because they require neither state-municipal resource coordination nor Department of Emergency and Military Affairs assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Arizona Constitution and the laws of the State, declare a significant potential for a health crisis in the State, and hereby order as follows:

1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-797, the sum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars ($350,000) shall be transferred from the Health Crisis Fund to the Department of Health Services to provide resources to control the measles outbreak.

2. The Department of Health Services shall expend all moneys transferred pursuant to this Order on measures to control the measles outbreak in Arizona and shall report to the Legislature and the Governor by December 31, 2008 on the expenditure of all sums so transferred.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 20 day of May in the Year Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-Second.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE