

Date : 3/8/2025 5:03:51 PM

From : "Lynette Hollis-Findley" [REDACTED]

To : "Katherine Wells" [REDACTED]

Subject : Re: Staying Strong in Uncertain Times

Thank you for sending this, Katherine. We appreciate all that you're doing, working tirelessly to promote and support public health. If there is anything you need from me, I am happy to help.

Lynette

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From: Katherine Wells [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, March 8, 2025 4:31:01 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Staying Strong in Uncertain Times

Dear Team,

The future is uncertain, and I know this is an unsettling time for many of us. I sat on a conference call with some of my classmates today to talk about the impact of cuts to CDC on the public health workforce. During the meeting I realized that it's been a few weeks since I've provided an update on our funding.

We don't yet know how or if the turmoil with the federal budget will impact our department, but here's what we do know: The state health department has assured us that there are no stop-work orders, and we should continue our work as usual. Additionally, our funding comes from a mix of federal, state, and local sources, so even if one is reduced or cut, we have options to shift resources and maintain most operations. While I won't downplay the concerns, I want you to know that there are guardrails in place to help us navigate this uncertainty.

Now, more than ever, our work matters especially as Lubbock makes national headlines with the measles outbreak. I encourage you all to stay focused on our mission of building a healthier community. Every day we show up and do our jobs is an act of resilience and commitment to public health. We must stay true to our values and focus on what we can control.

I also want you to know that I am advocating for us at every opportunity. Over the past few weeks, I've met with staff from Representatives Arrington, Tepper, and Burrows, as well as Senators Cruz and Cornyn. I've also spoken with leadership at the CDC, ASPR, and the Texas Department of State Health Services not only to ensure they understand the real impact of funding decisions but also to advocate for our current needs in responding to the measles outbreak.

On Tuesday afternoon, I'll be presenting an update on the outbreak to City Council. You can watch it online or attend in person. This presentation was originally requested in January after the city council approved our Community Health Improvement Plan. I will be providing an overview of our department's work and an update on the measles response.

I deeply appreciate each and every one of you for your dedication and passion for this work. Together, we will face whatever challenges come our way. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have concerns or ideas.

Sincerely,  
Katherine