STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

ORDER FINDING IMMINENT DANGER
TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH
AND
REQUIRING CORRECTIVE ACTION

This order is made pursuant to Section 2251 of the Public Health Code, Public Act 368 of 1978, being MCL 333.2251.

Matters of concern to the health of Michigan citizens having been brought to the attention of the Director of the Department of Community Health, and the Director having made the following determinations:

1) On March 12, 2004, an individual with measles landed in Detroit Michigan at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, McNamara Terminal, on Northwest Flight 39, from Amsterdam to Detroit.

2) This individual is believed to have been contagious during the flight in question.

3) This individual was in contact with other passengers on the flight during the approximate 8 hours of flight time.

4) Measles is highly infectious and spread by airborne route, thus posing a serious threat of transmittal to other passengers who were on Flight 39 with this individual.

5) This individual, and many other passengers, disembarked from Flight 39 in Detroit.
6) This individual then flew to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he was identified as having measles by Iowa’s state health department after he disembarked there.

7) Rare but serious consequences from measles include acute encephalitis, which can result in permanent brain damage and death.

8) Risk or complications from measles are higher in immunocompromised people, pregnant women, and infants under one year of age.

9) Available data suggests that measles vaccine if given within 72 hours of measles exposure will provide the best protection for many individuals who are not currently immunized.

10) To protect the public health, and prevent and control the spread of infectious disease, it is essential that individuals on Northwest Flight 39 be advised of exposure so that they may seek prompt medical attention.

11) The Michigan Department of Community Health is able to contact the individuals who were exposed to measles during this flight only if it has the manifest of individuals on Northwest Flight 39 and information that contains passenger names and contact information.

12) This condition could reasonably be expected to cause death, disease, or serious physical harm immediately or before the imminence of the danger can be eliminated through enforcement procedures otherwise provided;

13) This situation constitutes an imminent danger to the health or lives of residents of the State of Michigan; and
14) This determination is based on information provided by Mary Grace Stobierski, D.V.M, Manager, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section of the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Now, Therefore, It Is Hereby Ordered that:

A) Northwest Airlines provide to a representative of the Michigan Department of Community Health a copy of its manifest for Northwest Flight 39 from Amsterdam to Detroit on March 12, 2004 with names and contact information for all individuals on board, including crew members.

B) A copy of this order and the information from the manifest shall be provided by the Department to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention so that it may assist the Department with investigating this matter and acting to protect the public health.

Pursuant to Section 2261 of the Public Health Code, Public Act 368 of 1978, being MCL 333.2261, a person who violates this order is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or a fine of not more than $200.00 or both.

Dated: March 14, 2003

Janet Olszewski, Director,
Michigan Department of Community Health