Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Parents and Guardians

In this letter I would like to appeal to you to appreciate the importance of protecting your child from the effects of infectious diseases.

I would like to draw your attention to the current situation of the dramatic increase in the number of cases of measles in Europe. Until 5 October 2018 Romania was the country with the highest number of measles cases (5 100 cases), France (2 702), Greece (2 290) and Italy (2 248). At the same time, more than 32 000 cases of measles were reported in Ukraine. The measles problem also occurs in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Latvia. The situation in our country is superimposed on this picture. According to the latest data published by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, in the period from 1 January to 31 October 2018 there were 144 cases of measles in Poland. In the same period of 2017, 59 cases were reported. These figures indicate a dynamic spread of the disease.

Diseases know no borders. At any time we may come into contact with a pathogen causing a dangerous infection. Measles is dangerous not only because of the direct consequences of the disease, but also because of the occurrence of severe complications, in extreme cases leading to death. Particularly at risk are non-vaccinated persons, including children under 13 months of age or other persons who could not be vaccinated due to health reasons.

Your children’s safety is guaranteed by having them vaccinated with protective vaccinations. This will also significantly increase the level of safety of other non-vaccinated persons, due to medical indications. Please remember that it is thanks to vaccination that we have managed to reduce the number of diseases, and some of them have been completely eliminated.

I would like to appeal to you, as parents responsible for the health of your children, to re-evaluate the appropriateness of vaccinating your child in the context of the current epidemiological situation in our country. Please remember that a hasty decision to refuse to vaccinate children with protective vaccinations may have negative consequences for their health.

Counting on your prudence, please make your choice and make a positive decision to vaccinate your child according to the current saying "prevention is better than cure".

Yours faithfully,

State Sanitary Inspectorate in Lodz
dr n. med. Urszula Sztuka-Polińska