

# **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

## **HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** January 18, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Vaccine Supply Resolution

**ATTACHMENTS:** Resolution Passed by the Henderson County Board of Health

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

**On January 4, 2006, the Henderson County Board of Health passed the attached resolution in support of a resolution that is being considered by local Boards of Health and County Commissioners across North Carolina. The purpose of this resolution is to inform the North Carolina Congressional Delegation about the difficulty in assessing who is being administered vaccines and the shortages of vaccines in recent years. For example, the Henderson County Department of Public Health places its influenza vaccine order early in the calendar year for its fall flu clinics. In spite of signed contract orders with various suppliers, we have seen significant price increases above original estimates and significant delays from project delivery dates. This places a tremendous burden upon providers, especially when planning and coordinating a mass vaccine clinic. Without a coordinated effort at planning and distribution of this seasonal event, it is difficult to know how much to order and how extensive the clinic needs to reach. What results are less effective intervention programs and decreased protection of our citizens. At the same time there can be erosion of the public's confidence and trust in health providers' provision of vital health services.**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION/BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

**Recommend adoption of attached resolution.**

**Vaccine Supply Resolution**  
**Henderson County Board of Health**  
**Henderson County Board of Commissioners**  
**Henderson County, North Carolina**

**Whereas** each year, a substantial proportion of vaccine-preventable diseases occur among adults, despite the availability of safe and effective vaccines; and

**Whereas**, adult immunization levels continue to lag far behind childhood rates, and adult morbidity and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases remain distressingly high; and

**Whereas**, the burden of and responsibility for vaccinating high-risk and vulnerable populations often falls upon public health departments and their public partners; and

**Whereas**, public health is often unable to serve the high-risk and vulnerable populations within a community because of a lack of timely distribution of vaccine, especially influenza vaccine; and

**Whereas**, commercial vaccinators make early bulk purchases of influenza vaccine and are able to offer mass flu campaigns before public health can vaccinate high-risk populations, and

**Whereas**, the federal government and local medical providers look to the public health infrastructure to be prepared to respond to and coordinate the response of any communicable disease outbreak, including an influenza pandemic; and

**Whereas**, the federal government has provided support for the childhood immunization program nationally that has resulted in dramatic reductions in childhood vaccine preventable diseases; and

**Whereas**, an adult immunization is needed prior to implementation of a national universal influenza vaccine recommendation; now

**Therefore**, in recognition of this compelling public health challenge, the Henderson County Health Department and the Henderson County Board of Commissioners request that:

- Sufficient federal funding be identified to support a robust adult vaccine preventable disease vaccination infrastructure and program that would include influenza as a primary component;
- Guaranteed government prices for influenza vaccine be offered as an incentive for vaccine production to meet the demand;
- Federal government bulk purchase a base number of doses for public health;
- Regulations be created to guarantee distribution to public agencies first; and
- Enforcement rules be developed for providers who disregard high-risk vaccination criteria.

Adopted this 18th day of January, 2006

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John D. Bell, Chair  
Henderson County Board of Health

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William L. Moyer, Chair  
Henderson County Board of Commissioners