

**ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

Meeting Date: August 18, 2009

Action Agenda

Item No. 4-h

**SUBJECT:** Additional Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Funds

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**PUBLIC HEARING:** (Y/N)

No

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

None

**INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Rosemary Summers, 245-2411

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**PURPOSE:** To accept additional seasonal influenza vaccination funds.

**BACKGROUND:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allocated funds to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for vaccinations, including seasonal influenza. The CDC made funds available to states that wished to participate and in turn the NC Division of Public Health offered optional participation to each health department. The required focus of the influenza project is on school age children, specifically in the school setting. A minimum of five grade levels must be targeted. Research studies show that higher rates of immunization among school age children yield lower rates of influenza in the broader community.

The Health Department, in consultation with both school systems, is targeting upper elementary and middle school children in both public school systems. The Department estimates that 75% of the children in these grade levels will be voluntarily vaccinated through this special project. These grades were selected as they are less likely to receive an influenza vaccination from their private provider because regular provider visits are at longer intervals for these age groups. In addition, younger children often require the presence of a parent to assist in holding the child during the vaccination. School policies do not allow physical restraint by anyone other than a parent.

Orange County's allocation for this project is \$44,228.37. Each of the two school systems will receive \$1,105.71 as part of this allocation to be used as needed. The ARRA encourages the creation of jobs for the duration of this project. Since current staffing is not adequate to accomplish this project, funds will be utilized to hire contract personnel for project implementation. A contract project coordinator, contract nurses, and school nurses will be the primary implementers under the direction of the Community Health Services Nursing Supervisor. Supplemental staffing will be provided by the Orange County Medical Reserve Corps. Overtime funding for current staff members will be necessary for required data entry. Vaccine and sample educational tools will be provided by the State.

The outcome of this project is anticipated to produce a lower influenza rate community wide for strains covered by the seasonal influenza vaccine.

This project is for seasonal influenza vaccinations only and should not be confused with the anticipated arrival of novel H1N1 vaccine toward the end of the calendar year.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** The \$44,228.37 should be adequate to cover costs associated with this project. A final budget will be determined once final requirements are transmitted by the state.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** The Interim Manager recommends the Board accept funding in the amount of \$44,228.37 for the purpose of seasonal influenza vaccinations in two public school systems and approve the corresponding budget amendment.