

Agenda Item Number:

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: August 27, 2014

Agenda Item Subject: Mandatory Flu Vaccination for OCHD Employees

Attachment(s): N/A

Staff or Board Member Reporting: Pam McCall, Public Health Nursing Director

Purpose: Action
 Information only
 Information with possible action

Summary Information:

Complications from influenza result in about 36,000 deaths and 226,000 hospitalizations each year in the U.S. In NC last flu season there were 109 deaths attributed to the flu.

Influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone over age 6 months with rare exceptions. In particular, healthcare workers are urged to get the flu vaccine in order to prevent the spread of infection in vulnerable populations. To this end many healthcare organizations, including health departments, are requiring annual influenza immunization for their employees.

OCHD Leadership Team and OC Emergency Management are recommending a proposal to mandate annual influenza vaccination for employees in the two departments. There will be religious and medical exemptions granted under this proposal, but unvaccinated individuals will need to wear masks when interacting with patients or high risk individuals. The BOH will receive a white paper outlining the proposal (regarding OCHD employees) to be considered for approval at the September meeting.

Dr. Bridger announced the proposal to staff at the August 22 all-staff meeting. We will send a survey to staff asking if they receive an annual flu vaccine, if not, why and if they support the proposed mandate. The results of this survey will be shared with the BOH prior to the September meeting.

Staff will also be encouraged to share their thoughts about the mandate with Board members at the September BOH meeting.

Recommended Action: Approve
 Approve & forward to Board of Commissioners for action
 Approve & forward to _____
 Accept as information
 Revise & schedule for future action
 Other (detail):