

Influenza Vaccine Supply Resolution
Buncombe County Board of Health
Buncombe County Board of County Commissioners
Buncombe 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, adults form the core infrastructure needed to respond to any emergent public safety and health need; 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 infrastructure is needed prior to implementation of a national universal influenza vaccine recommendation; now

Therefore, in recognition of this compelling public health challenge, the Buncombe County Health Department and the Buncombe County 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 9th day of March, 2006

Marsha Stickford, Chair
Buncombe County Board of Health

Nathan Ramsey, Chair
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners