

King County Board of Health

RESOLUTION NO. 05-07

**SUPPORTING THE METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL MOTION
URGING CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FULL FUNDING FOR AN EXERCISE TO
DEMONSTRATE CAPABILITIES AND INTEGRATION OF GOVERNMENTS TO
RESPOND TO A PANDEMIC INFLUENZA OUTBREAK**

WHEREAS, influenza pandemics are inevitable and unpredictable outbreaks that can result in a public health emergency with high levels of illness and death, societal disruption, and economic losses; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has determined that pandemic influenza is a possible emergency scenario; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has found that, to date, over one hundred human cases with over fifty deaths have occurred as a result of Avian influenza A (H5N1) and it poses a considerable human public health risk; and

WHEREAS, Public Health-Seattle-King County has estimated that with an attack rate of thirty-five percent that 809 to 2,666 deaths and 249,916 to 466,642 outpatient medical visits due to pandemic influenza may occur in King County; and

WHEREAS, the source of Avian influenza is Asia and King County experiences significant immigration and international visits from Asian countries; and

WHEREAS, in March 2005, the King County pandemic flu preparedness task force was created to: (1) improve the effectiveness of the local healthcare system response to pandemic influenza and limit mortality and morbidity; and (2) facilitate coordination and collaboration among healthcare system stakeholders, the healthcare system and the department of public health; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2005, the King County board of health received a briefing on pandemic influenza; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2005, the King County board of health passed Resolution 05-04 directing the King County board of health to: (1) coordinate and facilitate King County's response and capacity planning in preparation for an influenza pandemic; and (2) encourage municipal governments and stakeholder organizations to work closely with the King County board of health in preparation for an influenza pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2005, King County held a forum with sixty business leaders in attendance, including representatives from Boeing and Starbucks, where a variety of preparedness issues were discussed, including development of contingency plans when up to 35% of a company's staff pandemic, and

WHEREAS, influenza pandemics can severely stress or overwhelm the healthcare delivery system and disrupt the continuity of operations for provision of other essential community services including governmental and businesses functions; and

WHEREAS, planning and coordination among all levels of government including Public Health – Seattle & King County and King County hospitals, healthcare professionals, emergency management agencies, social service agencies and the business community is essential to limit illness and death from pandemic influenza in King County and decrease social disruption and economic losses; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2005 the county executive announced that he would be requesting the Metropolitan King County Council to approve spending \$6 million to prepare for and deal with a flu pandemic, and

WHEREAS, an exercise to demonstrate the effectiveness of planning and coordination for an influenza pandemic would be beneficial; and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2005, the Metropolitan King County Council passed Motion 12211 respectfully urging the United States Congress to provide full funding for an exercise to demonstrate capabilities and integration of federal, state and local governments to respond to a pandemic influenza outbreak in King County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH supports Metropolitan King County Council Motion 12211 urging Congress to provide full funding for an exercise to demonstrate capabilities and integration of governments to respond to a pandemic influenza outbreak.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Carolyn Edmonds, Chair

Date of Adoption