A RESOLUTION encouraging the state, insurers, health care providers, parents and individuals to support childhood immunization as an effective means of communicable disease control.

WHEREAS, through the Universal Vaccine Purchase Program, the state of Washington historically purchased and distributed all childhood vaccines at no cost to providers for patients from birth through eighteen years old, without eligibility restrictions, and

WHEREAS, many other states purchase and distribute vaccines only for federal Vaccines for Children ("VFC") eligibility categories, which are Medicaid, Native American, uninsured and, at federally qualified health centers only, underinsured populations, and

WHEREAS, in most states insurance companies include vaccines as a covered benefit, and

WHEREAS, facing a budget shortfall of historic proportions, the State has eliminated its Universal Vaccine Purchase Program, and beginning on July 1, 2009, state
funds will no longer be used to purchase human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV), and by
May 1, 2010, state funds will no longer be used to purchase all other childhood vaccines,
or earlier if state funds are exhausted before then, and

WHEREAS, the state will continue to participate in the "VFC" program and may
use additional federal funds to provide vaccines for low income children in state-
sponsored health programs, and

WHEREAS, health care providers are affected by the changes in that new vaccine
inventory would need to be purchased and insurance billed for the cost of immunization,
and

WHEREAS, Public Health – Seattle & King County works closely with over
three hundred health clinics in King County to assure access and appropriate usage of
vaccine and in other ways improve immunization coverage rates, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to optimize immunization coverage through effective
public-private collaboration, in order to reach national Healthy People 2010 goals of
ninety percent completion rate for each vaccine and eighty percent coverage for the child
immunization series, and

WHEREAS, vaccine preventable-diseases such as pertussis, measles, mumps,
seasonal influenza, Haemophilus influenza type B (HIB), viral hepatitis, human
papillomavirus (HPV)-associated cervical cancer and infections, invasive pneumococcal
and meningococcal disease and others continue as significant public health threats in the
United States and other areas of the world, and

WHEREAS, Washington State and King County continue to experience outbreaks
of serious diseases such as pertussis and measles, and

WHEREAS,
WHEREAS, study after study show the safety of immunizations among children and their effectiveness in reducing death and illness due to communicable diseases (www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/immunization/safety.aspx), and

WHEREAS, immunization is one of the most effective and necessary ways to control the spread of disease and increase healthy life years for people in King County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF KING COUNTY:

A. The Board of Health requests that the Washington state Department of Health consider how it may facilitate the group purchase of vaccines for use by medical providers and health insurance companies, and to assure that adequate resources from federal three hundred seventeen immunization are allocated to Public Health to assure an effective transition from the current system for immunization providers and stakeholders.

B. The Board of Health requests that the Washington state Office of the Insurance Commissioner consider establishment of rules, requirements, or guidance for health insurance companies to include the cost of vaccines as a fully covered benefit.

C. The Board of Health encourages health insurance companies to include the cost of vaccines as a fully covered benefit and without additional cost to the insured.

D. The Board of Health encourages companies who are self-insured for health benefits to include the cost of vaccines as a fully covered benefit for their employees and their dependents.
E. The Board of Health urges health care providers to plan for the purchase of vaccines and to implement systems to actively encourage their clients to receive vaccination and track and monitor immunization rates among their clients.

F. The Board of Health urges parents to protect the health of our children by ensuring that their children complete the recommended childhood vaccination series in a timely manner.

G. The Board of Health encourages all adults and children to obtain vaccinations
Resolution

as recommended by the United States Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, including annual seasonal influenza vaccination.

Resolution was introduced on and passed as amended by the Board of Health on 6/18/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Clark, Ms. Frisinger, Dr. Counts and Mr. Gossett
No: 0
Excused: 8 - Ms. Patterson, Mr. Rasmussen, Dr. Sherman, Mr. Hutchinson, Dr. Nicola, Ms. Manning and Mr. Licata

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Julia Patterson, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments None