



**Signature Report**

**June 23, 2009**

**Resolution**

**Proposed No. 09-06.2**

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

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

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

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

16                  WHEREAS, facing a budget shortfall of historic proportions, the State has  
17                  eliminated its Universal Vaccine Purchase Program, and beginning on July 1, 2009, state

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18 funds will no longer be used to purchase human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV), and by  
19 May 1, 2010, state funds will no longer be used to purchase all other childhood vaccines,  
20 or earlier if state funds are exhausted before then, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

59 D. The Board of Health encourages companies who are self-insured for health  
60 benefits to include the cost of vaccines as a fully covered benefit for their employees and  
61 their dependents.

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62           E. The Board of Health urges health care providers to plan for the purchase of  
63 vaccines and to implement systems to actively encourage their clients to receive  
64 vaccination and track and monitor immunization rates among their clients.

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

68           G. The Board of Health encourages all adults and children to obtain vaccinations  
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71 as recommended by the United States Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices,  
72 including annual seasonal influenza vaccination.

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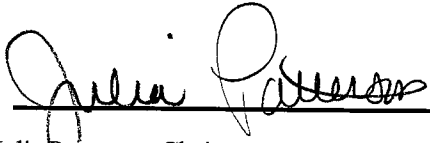
Resolution was introduced on and passed as amended by the Board of Health on  
6/18/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Clark, Ms. Frisinger, Dr. Counts and  
Mr. Gossett

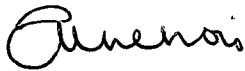
No: 0

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:

  
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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

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**Attachments**      None