

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

October 19, 2004

We all know that Los Angeles County, as well as the Nation, is suffering from a major shortage of the flu vaccine. With the U.S. flu-shot supply cut in half, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services had to cancel our annual flu immunization program.

Since fewer people will be vaccinated, there will be an increase in the number of residents who will suffer from the flu and medical complications stemming from the flu. Therefore, we can expect a temporary surge in the usage of our emergency rooms. To treat these residents, hospitals and clinics will be relying on antiviral drugs, which are an important second step of defense against the flu and can halt the spread of the flu virus once it invades the body.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of Health Services:

1. To review what impact this increase of patients will have on our already overcrowded emergency rooms and what plans must be implemented to address this increase; and
2. To report on what steps the Department is taking to insure that Los Angeles County has an adequate supply of anti-viral drugs or other treatments; and
3. To present his findings to the Board at the November 3, 2004 Board meeting.

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YBB:PM:jt3(Flushortage/ER/Antiviraldrugs)

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