



R-13

Date: February 4, 2014
To: Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District *al*
Councilmember Steven Neal, Ninth District *SN*
Subject: Report on current flu season and need for vaccinations

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Request the City Manager to provide a report from the Health Department to the City Council and the public on the severity of this year's flu season, the importance of getting vaccinated, and City resources that are available.

BACKGROUND:

Long Beach reported the first confirmed influenza death of this season a few weeks ago. The pandemic H1N1 strain is the predominant strain of influenza circulating in this region during the 2013-2014 flu season.

This strain of flu reportedly seems to affect a younger population that may not feel the need to receive their annual flu shot, and has caused a large number of cases of flu-like symptoms in the Long Beach and other areas.

This year's flu vaccine includes coverage for the H1N1 strain, which is why the City's health officials are encouraging everyone over the age of 6 months to get a flu vaccine this year. The City's Health Department is still offering flu vaccinations on an appointment basis.

In addition, it is important for residents to take other precautions for preventing the spread of the flu, including practicing basic hygiene rules and staying home from school or work when experiencing flu-like symptoms.

Due to the seriousness of this year's flu season affecting a wide portion of the population, and the proven effectiveness of vaccinations and other prevention measures, we would like to request the City Manager to have the Health Department provide the City Council and the public a timely update about the impact of this year's flu season, the precautions that people should take, and the resources that are available to Long Beach residents.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact.