

Received @ 11-30-05 BFM mtg  
2005-0419

## ***KING COUNTY COUNCIL BRIEFING NOVEMBER 30, 2005***

Good morning. My name is Randy Hansen and I'm a Battalion Chief with the Special Operations section of the Seattle Fire Department. Our Fire Chief has tasked us with the development of the infectious disease plan for the Seattle Fire Department. This is, of course, presently focused on the Avian Flu Pandemic potential.

I have 24 years with our department and a good deal of experience in disaster planning. This includes 12 years of evaluating, at the national level, numerous jurisdiction's plans and procedures in large exercises including TOPOFF 1, 2, & 3, for Homeland Security. This has given me perspective relative to the good and bad of disaster plan design and implementation. Bringing these lessons-learned home, one thing is crystal clear: the Seattle Fire Department's plan must be consistent with and integrated into the plans of our local partners from Seattle-King County Public Health, Seattle Police, Emergency Management, and the hospital system.

Our planning is based on the assumption that the Avian flu is already upon us. The position of our Department is that the purchase of the Tamiflu vaccine needs to occur as quickly as possible – proactively and not reactively. Our plan relies heavily on the ability to maintain the integrity and infrastructure of our city's response capability. A significant component is the knowledge that Seattle King County Public Health has the vaccine should we have a break in our line of defense. A break in our defense is a prudent contingency assumption and virtually inevitable since patients are infectious while exhibiting no symptoms. In many ways, this disease process will manifest itself covertly.

We have estimated that in a worst case scenario our ability to conduct operations will drop by 40-50%. Maintaining our staffing will be critical to the city's ability to respond and recover. This will only be accomplished through our employee's confidence that the vaccine is locally and readily available to protect them while they serve the citizens. It will be difficult for them to maintain our first line of defense if they are placed in the difficult position of balancing service to the public with protection of their families and selves.

The Seattle Fire Department has great concern and interest in expediting the purchase of this vaccine to ensure we have a proactive and viable plan to keep the city operating and the citizens cared for in this worst possible scenario.

Thank you for your time.