
SENATE BILL 6486

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Murray, Becker, and Shin

Read first time 01/15/10. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to vaccination of health care workers; and adding
2 a new section to chapter 70.41 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.41 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Hospitals licensed under this chapter shall adopt a policy that
7 at a minimum:

8 (a) Provides influenza vaccination, free of charge, to the
9 hospital's health care workers;

10 (b) Requires the hospital's health care workers who indicate they
11 will decline influenza vaccination to participate in an educational
12 program specified by the hospital about the influenza vaccine prior to
13 declining, including the risk posed to health care workers who contract
14 influenza and the risk to patients who may become ill as a result of
15 exposure to health care workers infected with influenza. Such training
16 must be completed within the time frame specified by the hospital;

17 (c) Requires the hospital's health care workers to provide annual
18 documentation of immunization for influenza or a signed declination
19 citing medical, religious, or philosophical objections; and

1 (d) Requires health care workers to wear a surgical mask or
2 alternative personal protective equipment as determined by the
3 hospital's infection control program when working with patients during
4 influenza season while unvaccinated for influenza.

5 (2) For purposes of this section, "health care worker" means an
6 employee, independent contractor, licensee, or other individual who is
7 involved in the delivery of health care services.

8 (3) Hospitals shall report to the department, on an annual basis,
9 vaccination rates for all health care workers.

10 (4) The secretary may, after consulting with hospitals regarding
11 vaccine supply, suspend the requirements of this section for a period
12 of time, not to exceed one year, if the secretary determines a shortage
13 of vaccine exists such that there would not be enough vaccine to
14 vaccinate health care workers in accordance with this section.

15 (5) Nothing in this section prohibits an individual hospital from
16 adopting a stricter policy than that provided for in this section.

17 (6) Nothing in this section may be interpreted as a mandate that
18 health care workers be vaccinated for influenza.

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