

2002 alpha RESOLUTION NO. A02 - 7

TITLE: Influenza Immunization and Reporting

SPONSOR: Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health of alpha

WHEREAS member organizations within the Association of Local Public Health Agencies are required to “promote immunization for children and adults through policy and procedure development in institutions and to health care workers”¹; and

WHEREAS public health staff have a duty to implement programs to reduce or eliminate various infectious diseases through infection control and vaccination programs inside institutions as well as within the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care requires reporting of influenza immunization status annually for employees of hospitals and Long Term Care facilities; and

WHEREAS the Ambulance Act requires that all emergency medical attendants and paramedics receive influenza immunization annually unless contraindicated²;

WHEREAS a union representing such workers has argued that it is discriminatory to single out only this category of health service worker for annual influenza immunization; and

WHEREAS the maintenance of up to date immunization against influenza protects the employee’s personal health, ensures workplace safety, protects the integrity of public health staffing, reduces the potential for staff to transmit influenza to well or vulnerable members of the public and sets the appropriate example;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alpha) request that the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care amend:

1. Regulation 566 (Qualifications of Boards of Health Staff) under the Health Protection and Promotion Act to require that all employees of Boards of Health be required to be immunized annually against influenza unless contraindicated and
2. the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines to require Boards of Health to report to the Minister of Health on the influenza immunization status of employees annually.

Action from Conference:

Moved: A. Hukowich (Haliburton, Kawartha)
Seconded: R. Kyle (Durham)

Carried

¹Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines December 1997, p. 66

²Ontario Regulation 257/00 as amended to O. Reg 386/01, Section 6(1)(h)