



Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

Request By: Public

Suggestion: Explore the increase of fees for the following: Pregnancy testing could be raised to \$8 from \$6. This would add at least \$10,000 based on the 5,700 tests done each year. Tuberculosis (TB) screening could be raised to \$15 from \$12. Based on the almost 15,000 people screened this would add several thousand dollars of income even though not all screenings are charged. Administration fees for adult/travel immunizations could be raised to \$15 or \$20 from \$12.

Response By: Health Department

Background: Under state Code, the Virginia Board of Health is charged with the responsibility for setting fees for almost all clinical services. The Virginia Department of Health updates these fees annually using guidance from the Board of Health. The County-State contract stipulates that as a locally administered health department, the County must abide by the state fee and eligibility system for state-mandated services. Currently, the State permits Northern Virginia fees for mandated services to be approximately 13.5 percent higher than the rest of the State. In the case of non-mandated services, such as international travel immunizations, County fees are based on the cost of the vaccine plus an administration charge; the County revises these fees annually or more frequently if the cost of the vaccine increases.

Recommendation:

The Fairfax County Health Department is working with the Virginia Department of Health to determine if the Virginia Board of Health would permit Fairfax County fees to rise above the current 13.5 percent maximum for Northern Virginia localities in order to realize a better recovery of costs for these services. Without approval by the Virginia Department of Health approval, the fees for these services cannot be raised.