

Response to Questions on the FY 2016 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Hyland

Question: Please report back to the Board with information on the impact of eliminating the Flu Shot Program for Public Safety personnel.

Response: Through the Public Safety Occupational Health Center (PSOHC), the Fire and Rescue Department purchases and administers the seasonal flu shot directly to work locations for all uniformed Public Safety personnel (including police, sheriff, fire) and also offers flu shots on a walk in basis at the PSOHC.

If eliminated, Public Safety personnel would have the option to receive flu vaccinations through the County's Live Well Program or through their personal insurance providers. Based on preliminary conversations with the Live Well Program, there are some concerns about the programs ability to accommodate the large volume of flu shots required by public safety staff as approximately 1,900 vaccines would be needed based on historical data.

Not having vaccines administered at the various work locations will increase the likelihood of personnel not receiving the flu vaccine which may decrease staff availability due to illness. For the Fire and Rescue Department, the cost of one vacancy due to sick leave is approximately \$600 in overtime.

The cost to restore the Flu Shot Program for uniformed Public Safety personnel is \$30,000.