



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Department Name:

Santa Barbara County Health

Department Number:

041

Agenda Date:

August 18, 2026

Placement:

Administrative Agenda

Estimated Time:**Continued Item:**

No

If Yes, date from:**Vote Required:**

Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director: Mouhanad Hammami, County Health

CONTACT: Anne Carlisle, Director of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention

SUBJECT: Influenza Reagent Resource User Agreement

Concurrences:**County Counsel Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute a no-cost User Agreement with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), effective June 15, 2026, for access to free influenza reagents (Attachment A);

- b) Approve and authorize the County Health Director to execute any future, no-cost amendments to the User Agreement with the ATCC, including any necessary certifications, acknowledgements, and documents directly associated with the Agreement, upon review and approval by County Counsel's Office and Risk Management, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time;
- c) Approve and authorize the County Health Director to terminate this Agreement in accordance with the Duration of Agreement section, upon review and approval by County Counsel's Office, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and
- d) Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and are exempt pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, since the recommended actions are the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda requesting Board approval to execute an Agreement with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), a not-for-profit organization contracting with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for access to an Influenza Reagent Resource (IRR). Approval will allow the Santa Barbara County Public Health Laboratory to continue receiving IRR supplies at no cost for respiratory disease testing.

Discussion:

The IRR, funded by the CDC, is a biological reagent repository established to provide free access to Influenza virus strains and research reagents. Reagents are a test chemical used to process specimens that lead to the diagnosis of different diseases. In September 2008, CDC's Influenza Division contracted with the ATCC to implement the IRR. The IRR resources are available to public health facilities, research institutions, life science companies, and other entities, agencies, and institutions.

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Laboratory receives reagents for respiratory disease testing including reagents for the CDC's Influenza subtyping, COVID-19, and Measles tests from the IRR at no cost to the county. As of June 15, 2026, the IRR requires an executed IRR User Agreement to continue receiving the reagents needed to continue this respiratory testing.

Background:

Reagents are indispensable assets for public health surveillance, outbreak response, and diagnostic testing. Laboratory reagents are the cornerstone of public health infrastructure, enabling rapid pathogen detection and mandated disease monitoring. These supplies have in the past incurred substantial costs for County Health and through this program will be free of charge.

Influenza reagents such as virus strains, World Health Organization (WHO) surveillance reagent kits, real time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) kits, and antisera were produced and distributed by the CDC Influenza Division. Now, reagents will be manufactured and distributed by the IRR to increase

the availability and accessibility of Influenza viruses and reagents for public health purposes as they are used in Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) activities consistent with the WHO PIP Framework.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Approval of the User Agreement with the ATCC will allow the Santa Barbara County Public Health Laboratory to access the IRR. There are no financial impacts associated with this User Agreement as it is no cost.

Special Instructions:

Please return the Executed Agreement and the Minute Order to the County Health Contracts Unit at PHDCU@sbcphd.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Influenza Reagent Resource User Agreement (Signature Required)

Attachment B – Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework

Contact Information:

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