

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1

**Yeas:** Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Verger, Morrisette

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** Telfer

**Prepared By:** Jennifer Kellar, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/9, 4/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Designates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services for the purchase of personal protective equipment and supplies,, to include gloves, masks, gowns, sanitation supplies, decontamination supplies and medical supplies, to respond to pandemic emergency, to provide and train pandemic emergency responders, and for purchase of influenza vaccines or antiviral drugs to treat influenza outbreaks. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2009.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Impact of influenza pandemic dependent on characteristics of new strain
- Antiviral drugs can reduce the duration and severity of illness
- Shelf life of antiviral drugs is limited
- Adequate storage for stockpiling of supplies
- Vaccines not developed and available for five to six months once a strain is identified
- Training and planning are integral components in minimizing an influenza pandemic
- Availability of federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Homeland Security
- Assurances that Oregon will get fair share of antiviral medication
- Federal government stockpile extension program

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Emergency Preparedness Committee of the 2003-05 Legislative Assembly began the process for State emergency preparedness in a pandemic emergency, including natural disasters, infrastructure and influenza vaccines. The Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology, Public Health Division, Department of Human Services, has indicated that pandemic influenza planning is based on scenarios developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, using data from past pandemics. Both moderate and severe pandemic scenarios assume 35 percent (1.3 million) of the state population would become ill, of which 50 percent (656,000) would seek medical care. The number of deaths could vary by 10-fold depending on the scenario and could number between 2,600 and 26,000.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is one component of a comprehensive worker protection program, which is the responsibility of employers. The Public Health Division works with the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division to provide technical assistance to local health departments and other partners on worker protection issues. Twenty-seven local health departments and seven tribes purchased PPE with federal preparedness funds in 2008.

Training personnel and planning for early, targeted use of non-pharmaceutical community-based mitigation measures are key investments in controlling an influenza pandemic. Such measures, including “social distancing” to control disease spread, are mitigation strategies and may reduce incidence of disease by up to 50 percent, based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predictions.

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***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***