

1 [Flu vaccine.]

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3 **Resolution urging the Department of Public Health to post information on its website**  
4 **and to provide information to pediatric clinics to pass along to parents regarding the**  
5 **flu vaccine, including, but not limited to, the importance of immunization against the flu**  
6 **and the lack of scientifically conclusive evidence of harm resulting from exposure to**  
7 **thimerosal in flu vaccines and to urge Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to sign**  
8 **AB2943, the Mercury-Free Vaccine Act of 2004.**

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10 WHEREAS, Each year, an average of about 36,000 people in the United States die  
11 from influenza, commonly referred to as the flu, and 114,000 have to be admitted to the  
12 hospital as a result of the flu; and

13 WHEREAS, Very young children, people age 65 and older, and people of any age with  
14 chronic medical conditions are more likely to get complications from the flu; and

15 WHEREAS, Thimerosal is a preservative that contains some ethyl mercury; and

16 WHEREAS, The flu vaccine is currently available both with thimerosal as a  
17 preservative and preservative-free; and

18 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American  
19 Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend annual flu immunization for, among others, all  
20 children with high-risk conditions who are 6 months of age and older, all children who are 6  
21 months through 24 months of age, and household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of all  
22 children younger than 24 months of age.

23 WHEREAS, The CDC and the AAP note that there is no scientifically conclusive  
24 evidence of harm from exposure to thimerosal preservative containing vaccines,

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1           WHEREAS, The CDC and the AAP advise that the benefits of influenza vaccination  
2 outweigh the theoretical risk, if any, of exposure to thimerosal; and

3           WHEREAS, There is nonetheless some concern among parent groups about the effect  
4 of exposure to thimerosal on children; and

5           WHEREAS, The Mercury-Free Vaccine Act of 2004 (AB 2943), on file with the Clerk of  
6 the Board of Supervisors in File No.       , which is hereby declared to be a part of this  
7 resolution as if set forth fully herein, which would prohibit on and after July 1, 2006, all  
8 pregnant women and children under 3 years of age from being vaccinated with a mercury-  
9 containing vaccine is awaiting Governor Schwarzenegger signature; now, therefore, be it

10          RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of Public Health to  
11 provide information on its website regarding the flu vaccine, including, but not limited to, the  
12 benefits of vaccination against the flu and the lack of scientifically conclusive evidence of  
13 harm from exposure to thimerosal in flu vaccines; and, be it

14          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of Public  
15 Health to distribute information in English, Spanish, and Chinese to pediatric clinics to  
16 disseminate to parents regarding the flu vaccine, including, but not limited to, the benefits of  
17 vaccination against the flu and the lack of scientifically conclusive evidence of harm from  
18 exposure to thimerosal in flu vaccines; and be it

19          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Governor  
20 Schwarzenegger to sign the Mercury-Free Vaccine Act of 2004 (AB 2943).

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