

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department  
Memorandum

8/26/05

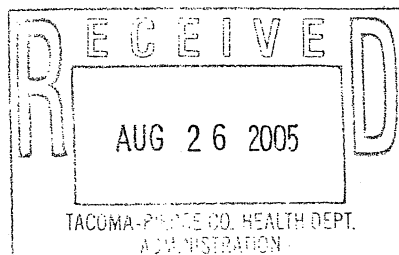
DRAFT

Date: August 26, 2005  
To: David Vance, Public Health Manager  
From: Federico Cruz-Uribe, Director of Health  
Subject: Special Work Assignment

In order to protect the public health and welfare of the residents of Pierce County I am requiring you to complete the following special work assignment.

Background

1. The residents of Pierce County face a potential threat from a worldwide influenza pandemic resulting from the H5N1 virus commonly referred to as "bird flu". National and international public health organizations, individual medical experts and various governments have acknowledged the potential for a worldwide bird flu influenza pandemic. Vaccines are not available to combat the H5N1 virus. Oral anti-viral medicines are in short supply. Current pharmaceutical manufactures are not capable of meeting the need for oral anti-viral medicines.
  - In order to adequately prepare Pierce County for the impact of a bird flu outbreak we must find alternate sources for oral anti-vial medicines.
2. Government institutions and government funded medical clinic systems in Pierce County are unable to keep pace with the increasing cost of providing pharmaceuticals to patients, inmates and clients. This is especially true for the provision of psychotherapeutic medicines.
  - In order to provide pharmaceuticals cost effectively we must find alternate sources for psychotherapeutic agents and other medicines.
3. The country of India is internationally recognized as a provider of high-quality, low-cost pharmaceuticals. Many Indian pharmaceutical companies are certified by the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) to manufacture and import medicines into the United States.



TPCHD-SR 0054

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Special Assignment

- Travel to India and conduct a feasibility study regarding the acquisition of pharmaceuticals from Indian pharmaceutical manufacturing companies.
- Companies must be approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) to manufacture and import pharmaceuticals into the United States.
- Pharmaceuticals must be approved by the US FDA.
- First priority should be directed to the acquisition of oral anti-viral medicines in order to be prepared locally to deal with the impact of a potential worldwide bird flu influenza pandemic.
- Second priority should be on the acquisition of psychotherapeutic medicines for use in government institutions and government funded medical clinic systems.
- Final priority should be on the acquisition of other therapeutic medicines for use in government institutions and government funded medical clinic systems.
- Special emphasis must be placed on compliance with any and all applicable United States federal, state and local rules and regulations regarding the manufacture and import of pharmaceuticals into the United States.
- Due to the potential threat of the bird flu pandemic striking in the fall/winter of 2005-06 you must accept this assignment immediately, develop all necessary project components and travel to India within the next 30 days.
- Prepare a written report and submit it to me upon your return from India.

cc: Victor Harris, Deputy Director  
Susan Ferguson, Legal Counsel