

CERTIFIED MAIL

October 17, 2008

John Auerbach, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Commissioner Auerbach:

The Massachusetts Nurses Association Board of Directors has recently seen a resurgence of an issue that we believed had been resolved previously. Specifically, the issue of declination forms for flu vaccines.

The MNA Board would like to make it clear they are very much in favor of the offer and pursuit of flu vaccines to the health care workforce. What we are opposed to is the use of a signed declination form that infringes upon the privacy rights of individuals.

Certainly if DPH wishes to track the number of health care workers taking the flu shot, there is a plethora of mechanisms to do this without infringing on the personal privacy rights of health care workers.

To summarize, the MNA Board of Directors encourages its members to receive the vaccination but supports their right to decline without explanation or execution of a form.

If you have any questions or wish to contact me with regard to this issue please do not hesitate. I can be reached at 781-821-4625 x780 or bpiknick@mnarn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Piknick".

Beth Piknick, RN
MNA President

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