

Executive Order 2006-10

To Provide Moneys From The Health Crisis Fund To Help Control Coccidiomycosis ("Valley Fever") Outbreak

WHEREAS, pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-797, the Legislature has established the Health Crisis Fund authorizing the Governor to approve specific liabilities and expenditures in order to respond to a health crisis or a significant potential for a health crisis; and

WHEREAS, Coccidiomycosis (aka "Valley Fever"), caused by fungal spores that exist primarily in the southwestern desert soils, is highly prevalent in Arizona and can have severe outcomes including death; and

WHEREAS, the number of Valley Fever cases in Arizona, which has steadily increased since at least 1997, spiked sharply in 2006 with over 2,000 cases already reported (compared to a five-year median of 817 over the same period); and

WHEREAS, recent studies by the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, and the Valley Fever Center for Excellence have found that a high percentage of community acquired pneumonia (CAP) cases in Arizona are actually caused by Valley Fever; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of CAP patients are never tested or treated for Valley Fever, which contributes to Valley Fever being greatly underreported by Arizona physicians and the public health system having inadequate knowledge of the full scope of the outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the public health threat posed by Valley Fever can be reduced through intensive efforts to educate Arizona healthcare providers on identifying, treating, and reporting cases of Valley Fever; and

WHEREAS, efforts to control Valley Fever are neither a contingency nor an emergency pursuant to A.R.S. § 35-192 because they require neither state-municipal resource coordination nor Department of Emergency and Military Affairs assistance;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Arizona Constitution and the laws of the State, declare a significant potential for a health crisis in this State from the Valley Fever outbreak and hereby order as follows:

1. The Health Crisis Fund, as established pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-797, is authorized to transfer the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to the Department of Health Services for use in combating the outbreak of Valley Fever in Arizona.

2. The Department of Health services shall expend all moneys transferred pursuant to this Order on measures to reduce the spread and threat posed by Valley Fever in Arizona and shall report to the Legislature and the Governor by December 31, 2006 on the expenditures of all sums so transferred.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.



[Handwritten Signature]
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 26th day of June in the Year Two Thousand and Six and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirtieth.

ATTEST:

[Handwritten Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE