

Northern Advocate 30/7/09

As this information is not totally confirmed but not to be sneezed at, we will listen eagerly in the next meetings for the odd grunt in the chamber to confirm who is and who is not protected from the dreaded lurgy and who has paid for the vaccines.

WARREN SLATER
Maunu

been supplied with Tamiflu.

Mr Slater may see the situation as one for another of his complaints, but Whangarei District Council's responsibility is to do everything it can to protect its residents from a catastrophic breakdown in services in the event of a predicted 79 per cent swine flu infection rate.

Council simply cannot and will not adopt a casual attitude to this.

Selective vaccination

It has been received on good information that some of the Whangarei district councillors have received the Tamiflu vaccine. Only some, our informant claims — only councillors with "committee chair positions" were the ones to receive the vaccine. One would think there would only be a "pecking order" for the bird flu.

What makes the chairs more important than the lower ranked elected councillors? Or is it only them making the statements or decisions for our town?

Maybe if it is only them, are senior staff of WDC not prone to contracting the swine flu?

One must wonder how the district would survive without councillors and perhaps the vaccine would have been better given to children, the elderly and those with medical conditions.

■ Mayor Stan Semenov responds: Mr Slater's negativity misrepresents Whangarei District Council's common sense preparedness for any swine flu pandemic.

He has not lived here long but should know that we are a district and not a "town" and that council operates a number of services essential to the health and wellbeing of a population of 74,000.

In line with WDC's pandemic plan, Tamiflu vaccine has been provided to 96 staff to ensure the district's essential water treatment, sewage treatment, civil defence, cemetery, environmental health, resource consents, laboratory, rates, payroll, communication, finance, roading, customer services and information services continue to operate.

These services are vital and cannot be compromised. The chairs of the three councillor committees overseeing these services have also