



Viet Nam Medical Assistance Program

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Flu Awareness Program- Statement of Work

In June 2009, World Health Organization (WHO) had announced H1N1, the swine flu, a pandemic. In the United States, over a millions of people have been infected by the novel flu. According to Center Disease Control (CDC), this new strand of flu has claimed lives in many nations including people in United States where approximately 9,000 people have been hospitalized and 556 people had succumbed because of flu-related complications. The flu season in the northern hemisphere is varied each year with the peak of flu cases occurred from the month of November to February. Moreover from 1982 to 2008, February appeared to be the common month when flu cases peaked. As the flu seasonal is approaching, swine flu incidence may increase during this period. This year, CDC has announced the week of December 6-12, as National Influenza vaccination week. The program is aimed to promote the use of vaccine through highlighting of the importance of vaccination.

In following with the organization's mission and in responding to the threat of novel flu in the Vietnamese community in Maryland, Viet Nam Medical Assistance Program (VNMAP) is proposing a flu awareness initiative, which will occur from Dec 6-12. This initiative is aimed to prevent the transmission of flu in the community through education, vaccination, and community collaboration. During VNMAP's local operation in Maryland for the past two years, we noticed that many families did not have health insurance and there were many elders that did not understand different health risks that they were encountering because of their low proficiency in English. In addition to those problems, a large Vietnamese population in Maryland worked in nail salons and restaurants where transmission of flu virus can be high. During our search for different health education programs that focused to the Vietnamese community in Maryland, we found very few programs that were beneficial to this population.

The VNMAP's flu awareness initiative will involve different Vietnamese organizations in the community as well as local businesses and religious organizations. The project will be divided into two parts. One part will focus more on education through several workshops during the week of Dec 6-12 to help the community understand the transmission of the flu virus, the symptoms, the complications, the treatment, and the preventive methods. As part of the educational aspect, we will go to different Vietnamese nail salons and restaurants to give out flyers and posters on flu prevention. The other part of this initiative is to focus on seasonal flu vaccination for elders and people with chronic diseases. This population is already at risk for flu-related complications. As of now, scientists are still investigating for the risk factors that can lead to swine flu-related complication and infection. Hence, seasonal flu vaccination for this population will not only protect them from seasonal flu-related complication, but also prevent possible detrimental effect of co-infection (swine flu and seasonal flu) or prevent possible increase in risk of swine flu infection after having seasonal flu.