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THRIVE—FLU SEASON “SHOT IN THE ARM”

Education and assistance on flu vaccinations is coming via THRIVE.

THRIVE is a Kiwanis International health service program. Rosemead Kiwanis is partnering with one of the new owners of the former California Christian Home, Mission Care and Rehabilitation, to bring this program to our area.

The acronym THRIVE means “Tackling the Health Risk of Influenza with Vaccinations and Education.”

The THRIVE program secures the vaccine and provides nursing assistance. They also furnish the publicity materials. Rosemead Kiwanis is involved by publicizing the needs and benefits of vaccinations through local

businesses, schools, the Chamber of Commerce, newspapers, etc

Why all the excitement?

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), many at-risk adults are simply not getting the vaccines they need to prevent diseases such as

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Mission Care/Kiwanis Fight Flu Risk

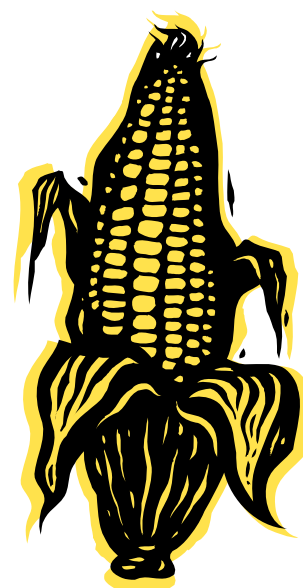
.All Mission Care residents and staff that consent will receive the vaccination this season and will advise of exact dates and processes very soon.

In addition to taking care of our residents, Mission Care is joining forces with Kiwanis International as part of a first-ever national program to promote flu education and vaccination called THRIVE (Tackling Health Risk of Influenza with Vaccinations & Education).

All interested are encouraged to reserve their vaccination over the phone with Bryce Porter (626-607-2411).

The flu vaccinations are free for those with Medicare Part B and will be offered at Mission Care on Thursday, Nov. 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All other vaccinations will cost recipients \$20.

[The above article is excerpted from the October, 2005, issue of the *Mission Care and Rehabilitation Impressions* newsletter]



From single kernels do mighty cornstalks grow.

Rosemead
Kiwanis
Club

“since 1945”

Box 832
Rosemead, CA

UN/Bush Sound Flu Pandemic Warning

A developing avian (bird) flu epidemic is spreading worldwide.. There is a threat of its jumping to the human population, experts are warning. According to early November news reports:



Not all grapes foster wrath.

- Federal officials could restrict travel and close schools in the event of a widespread outbreak of the deadly avian flu strain, . HN51, which has already killed 70 people in Asia.
- 2600 avian bird deaths have been confirmed in China. The, country has now banned the importation of poultry from fourteen nations
- Confirmed instances of the HN51 virus have occurred in Turkey, Romania and Britain in the past week. Others are looking at suspicious incidents.

This is the background behind a 7.2 billion dollar anti-flu campaign being proposed by President Bush amidst cries that it places too much financial responsibility on local and state officials.

According to UPI, "The Department of Health and Human Services estimates a worst-case flu pandemic could kill 1.9 million people in the United States and hospitalize 10 million." Cost to the American economy is projected to be \$181 billion according to the International Herald Tribune.

Awareness of the possible pandemic has led to drug hoarding in Australia. It is also already creating vaccine shortages in some parts of the United States. The United Nations is trying to raise more funds.

The difficulty is that the funds are to prepare for a possible event and are competing with Tsunami relief and other immediate needs. such as

famine, AIDS, earthquake, and hurricane relief—plus the cost of fighting terrorism.

The United States Centers for Disease Control notes that there were only three certified flu pandemics in the 20th Century—the current threat, if it metastasizes, would be the first in this century.

- 1918-19 - the "Spanish flu" (H1N1), caused the highest number of known influenza deaths. More than 500,000 people died in the United States , and up to 50 million people may have died worldwide. Nearly half of those dying were young, healthy adults.
- 1957-58, the "Asian flu," [A (H2N2)], was

(see "crises"- p. 4)

(from “flu” - p. 1)

influenza, pneumococcal pneumonia and hepatitis B.

As a result:

- 200,000 individuals are likely to be hospitalized due to influenza complications and of these approximately 36,000 will die,
- 33,000 people suffer from invasive pneumococcal disease; 5,000 will die.
- 80,000 individuals become newly infected with hepatitis B; 5,000 will die.

Pneumonia and influenza together are now the sixth leading cause of death among older adults. The CDC estimates that costs to the United States from vaccine-preventable diseases of adults exceeds \$10 billion per year.

More CDC facts can be gleaned from the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

According to current research and CDC statistics:

- Influenza vaccine saves \$14.71 per person in medical costs for each person vaccinated between the ages 18 and 63.
- Influenza vaccine saves \$182 in medical costs for each person vaccinated aged 65 or over.
- Pneumococcal vaccine saves \$8.87 in medical costs per person vaccinated aged 65 or over.
- Hepatitis B vaccine saves \$100 million in medical costs for every 1 million high-risk adults vaccinated.

These statistics, which according to UNICEF, are mirrored in other countries, are what has motivated Kiwanis International to partner with Chiron Vaccines in a three-pronged “Young Children: Priority One” campaign to

minimize the effects of influenza outbreaks.

The campaign focuses on education, community outreach, and vaccination through local clubs partnering in communities.

Once a vaccination program is scheduled Chiron Vaccines sends a visiting nurse to the designated location to administer the vaccines.

With Rosemead Kiwanis Club cooperation, Bryce Porter, Director of Marketing/ Admissions for Mission Care and Rehabilitation, will be heading this program for Mission Care.

Need for the program was spotlighted by the recent remarks of Health Secretary Michael Leavitt regarding a developing Asian bird flu pandemic.

Experts fear H5N1 could mutate into a virus which spreads easily among humans, creating a pandemic that might kill millions. The so-called Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 killed over 20 million people worldwide.

Factoid —

The last great pre-vaccine flu pandemic killed over 20 million people worldwide

(from "crises"- p. 2)

responsible for about 70,000 deaths in the United States . It was first identified in China and spread to the United States and the world.

- 1968-69, the "Hong Kong flu," H3N2, was responsible for about 34,000 deaths

in the United States . This virus was first detected in Hong Kong in early 1968 and spread to the United States later that year. Influenza A (H3N2) viruses still circulate today.

Both the 1957-58 and 1968-69 pandemics were caused by viruses containing a combination of genes from a hu-

man influenza virus and an avian influenza virus. The 1918-19 pandemic virus appears to have an avian origin.

According to a 432 page study on Pandemic Preparedness, published by the National Academies Press, 88% of the world's nations are unable to even make flu vaccines. Many

are ill-equipped to buy outside stockpiles. Drug firms balk at creating stockpiles that may go unused and unpaid for.

It is in this context that Rosemead Kiwanis and Mission Care are sponsoring our local THRIVE program.

KIWANIS — ALWAYS BUILDING

ONE CHILD, ONE PERSON, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

Rosemead Kiwanis has served our community since 1945. In addition to the THRIVE program featured in this special edition we

- sponsor Key Club and Builders Club programs in six local schools
- operate an extensive after school program
- facilitate health oriented activities such as distribution of literature for young mothers
- participate in both an annual farm/city student exchange and an overnight mountain Winter Leadership Camp
- support the "adopt-a-grandparent" senior visitation programs
- assist in scholarship distribution and operation of the RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program
- develop member communication abilities through Rosemead Kiwanis Toastmasters and facilitate lectures on various topics to interested community groups
- supported targeted programs for developmentally challenged adults at the Lincoln Training Center
- are involved in disaster preparedness and awareness programs

We are always interested in making new friends. To subscribe to our local email newsletter (the RKC Reporter) just send a request to KCRosemead@aol.com