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Project Title: A Pilot Study of the Effectiveness of a School-based Influenza
Vaccination Program

Project Number: DOH96-DC-2302

Executing Institute: Centers for Disease Control, R.O.C.(Taiwan)

Principal Investigator (P.I.): Jen-Hsiang Chuang

P.I. Position Title: Associate researcher & Director

P.I. Institute: National Health Command Center

Abstract:

The Department of Health implemented “Pilot Program for Vaccinating High Risk Persons Aged 65 Years Or Older Against Influenza” in 1998. During the first year of the program, 9.9% of persons aged ≥ 65 years received influenza vaccination. Eligibility for influenza immunization were loosened gradually to finally include all persons aged ≥ 65 years. By 2004, 60.2% of the elderly population received vaccination. Recent researches had shown that elementary school students might be the main spreaders of disease during influenza season. In addition, information from Japan, which immunized all elementary school students against influenza between 1962 and 1994, clearly showed decreased mortality from influenza. Therefore, Taiwan has decided to start immunizing the first and second grade students in the entire country against influenza since November 1, 2007. This project plans to recruit eight elementary schools in a pilot study. Four of the schools, students, first to sixth grades, will have the opportunity to receive influenza vaccination. This study will explore the feasibility of a larger program to study the effect of vaccinating all of the elementary students (e.g., enrolling about 60 schools into the study), develop the measures for studying the effectiveness of immunization and evaluate the effects of immunization on the students, their families, and their communities.

Keywords: influenza immunization, program evaluation