



Maryland Vote & Vax Initiative

Student and Faculty Pharmacists' Planning and Implementation of an Immunization Clinic on Election Day to Improve Public Health

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Presenter Disclosures

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No relationship to disclose.

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Learning Areas

- Planning of health education strategies, interventions, and programs
- Implementation of health education strategies, interventions and programs
- Provision of health care to the public
- Other professions or practice related to public health

Learning Objectives

- Describe a 13-step action plan and process to implement provision of influenza vaccinations and education on Election Day to improve public health.
- Describe lessons learned for students and faculty at schools to conduct similar programs on future Election Days to help improve the health of the nation.

Background/Rationale

- Annually, influenza and its related illnesses accounts for:
 - Approximately 36,000 deaths
 - Approximately 200,000 hospitalizations
 - Over \$10 billion in lost productivity and direct medical expenses
 - Over \$16 billion in lost potential earnings

Background/Rationale

- Pharmacists are authorized to immunize in all 50 states in the U.S.
- Obligation and responsibility to increase immunization rates through providing vaccination and education for the community
- Help to achieve U.S. Healthy People objectives
- Document pharmacists' role in public health

Pharmacist's Role in Public Health

- Reiterates the need for increased awareness of the role of pharmacists in public health through the dissemination of information
- Encourages trans-disciplinary collaborations to develop legislation and advocate for plans that address health care needs
- Supports the influx of more pharmacists trained in public health

American Public Health Association (APHA). Policy 200614:
The Role of the Pharmacist in Public Health.
www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/default.htm?id=1338.

Inaugural Maryland Vote & Vax Initiative: Election Day 2010

- Tuesday, November 2, 2010
- Less than 5 months planning
- Collaboration of multiple stakeholders in Maryland:
 - Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
 - Prince George's County Health Department and its Medical Reserve Corps
 - Student Section of Maryland Public Health Association
 - American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists
 - University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's students and faculty pharmacists

A 13-Steps Action Plan & Process

- Planning and Implementation of an Influenza Clinic
- Community Center Next to Polling Site
- Collaboration of Many Stakeholders



An application of the 3 core functions & 10 essential services of public health
(Source: IOM and CDC)

A 13-Steps Action Plan & Process

1. Conceptualizing an Idea
2. Conducting a Needs Assessment
3. Convening of a Student Core Planning Team
4. Seeking Guidance and Support from the Dean, Faculty Advisors, and Professional Staff



Back L to R: Lauren Angelo, Hoai-An Truong, Cherokee Layson-Wolf, Cynthia Boyle, Janet Lee, and Neal Vasist
Front L to R: Vicky Dang, Tina Dang, and Janet Dudley

A 13-Steps Action Plan & Process

5. Collaborating with Stakeholders: Identifying Clinic Sites near Polling Places
6. Collaborating with Stakeholders: Obtaining Vaccinations from the Health Department
7. Developing and Obtaining Standing Orders and Protocol, including Emergency Management for Flu Clinics
8. Ensuring Compliance with Legal and Liability Issues

A 13-Steps Action Plan & Process

9. Promoting the Initiative: Involving the School's News Media Office and Registering with National Vote & Vax Program
10. Recruiting and Training Student Pharmacist Immunizers and Volunteers
11. Keeping the Team Informed and Putting it All Together: Final Preparations for Implementation of a Student-Organized Project

A 13-Steps Action Plan & Process

12. Implementing Vote & Vax Flu Clinic on Election Day and Expecting Last Minute Challenges
13. Planning for Evaluation: What Worked and What Didn't Work?



Impact of Inaugural Maryland 2010 Immunization Clinic on Election Day

- 153 vaccinations provided during the clinic
- 42 individuals received for the first time
- 30 students and 4 faculty pharmacists



Lessons Learned

- Short initial planning period – Start early
- Concerns and resistance from Board of Elections – Educate and involve stakeholders
- Dealing with multiple sites – Start with one
- Legal/liability issues – Involve legal counsel early and provide liability insurance coverage
- Early voting and non-presidential election year – Focus on actual election day and presidential year

Recommendations

- Select a core planning team and involve faculty experts
- Develop template letter to Boards of Election
- Meet with sponsors/stakeholders early
- Focus energy and effort on one site
- Prepare to address language/cultural barriers
- Communicate with other healthcare providers early
- Walk through the site prior to event day
- Promote and market early

Vote & Vax: Event Day in Photos



"I am extremely thrilled that the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy has been able to partner with the Prince George's County Health Department to host the first Vote & Vax event in Maryland," said **Janet Dudley**, a fourth-year student pharmacist and co-organizer of the event.

"Our intent was to provide flu shots to a population with historically low vaccination rates while demonstrating that pharmacists have expanding roles that include health promotion and disease prevention."



Janet & Tina with Delegate Jolene Ivey.



"When I first read about Vote & Vax, I thought how beneficial an initiative like this could be in our community here in Maryland," said **Tina Dang**, a fourth-year student pharmacist and Vote & Vax co-organizer.

"With such a large underserved population, it is common to hear people complain that they can't afford a flu shot, or don't have time to get one. Many did not know the risks they were exposing themselves and their loved ones to by not receiving flu shots. Fueled by the fact that pharmacists can give immunizations themselves, I realized that this is very much something within our realm as pharmacy students."

Recognitions

- Immunization Excellence Award from the Maryland Partnership for Prevention
- Proclamation from the Maryland General Assembly
- Recognition from the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Regional Operation Immunizations



Going Forward: 2011 and Beyond

- Discussions on lessons learned for future clinics
- Through this public health program, students gained valuable experiences in leadership, program planning, organization, implementation, and evaluation for health promotion and disease prevention; and sustainability
- **Next Tuesday, November 8: Second Vote & Vax**
- Baltimore City Mayoral and City Council Elections
- Next Year 2012: Presidential Election Year



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