

# HEALTH

# HEALTH BRIEFS

## AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA URGES AFRICAN AMERICANS TO GET THEIR FLU SHOT

(Las Vegas) — It's that time of year again — flu season. Last year there were more than 100 million reported cases of the flu and studies show that African Americans are hit hard during the flu season. The mortality rate attributed to influenza and its most common complication, pneumonia, is 52 percent greater in African Americans than whites.

Overall, lung disease is the third leading cause of death in America, and flu is a significant reason why. In 1989, influenza, combined with pneumonia, killed 76,550 Americans, including Clark County residents.

In an effort to reverse this disturbing trend, the American Lung Association of Nevada is

mounting a major flu prevention drive this year. Funding for this effort comes in part from its Christmas Seal campaign.

African Americans in high-risk groups such as senior citizens and those with chronic heart or lung disease are urged to get their flu shot early this season. Studies show that African Americans are less likely to get their flu shots by an average of 10 to 15 percent than other groups.

There is a widespread misconception among some groups that the flu vaccine may cause influenza. This is not the case. The influenza vaccine is absolutely safe.

We want everyone to know that the best period to receive a flu shot is between October 15

and November 15, before the peak of the flu season. We urge all groups, especially those in high-risk categories, to take advantage of flu shots being offered by the Clark County Health District or your family physician.

Common symptoms of influenza include fever, chills, weakness, loss of appetite, body aches, sneezing and coughing. African Americans who are 65 and older, those with chronic heart or lung disease, including children with asthma; health care workers and other employees of hospitals, chronic care settings and out-patient facilities who have contact with patients need to receive the flu vaccine annually. Those with an allergy to eggs should not take a flu shot since the vaccine is made from highly purified egg-grown inactivated viruses. Others with acute feverish illnesses should not be vaccinated until their symptoms have subsided.

The American Lung Association of Nevada fights lung disease. Along with its medical section, The American Thoracic Society, the Association provides programs of education, community service, advocacy and research. Its activities are supported by donations to Christmas Seals and other voluntary contributions. Founded in 1904 to fight tuberculosis, the American Lung Association is the oldest nationwide voluntary health agency in the United States.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS JOIN FORCES TO ADVANCE NATIONAL AGENDA FOR AMERICA'S BLACK CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Washington, D.C. — On Friday, September 25 African American leaders will launch an unprecedented partnership to forge the strengths of the black community to address the challenges facing America's black children and youth.

The NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN, created by the National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality, will hold its first meeting during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 22nd Annual Legislative Weekend to focus on the crisis of black infant mortality. The forum entitled, "Ending the African American Infant Mortality Tragedy," will be held Friday at the Rayburn House Office Building from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

"The plight of African American children is worsened each time (See African American Leaders, Page 22)

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partment of Justice and the Food and Drug Administration. So far, 31 individuals and eight companies have been convicted. Nearly \$19 million in criminal fines have been imposed.

Maddox has also taken part in investigations and convictions involving the use of falsified Social Security number and earnings statements. One case involved approximately 50 Nigerians who sought work authorization papers by using false employer and church reference papers. In addition to the 40 aliens convicted over a two-year period, three INS attorneys involved in the scheme were convicted.

Edward M. Evans supervises OIG's state fraud branch, policy coordinating instruction staff and the OIG Hotline. A former detective who spent 22 years with the New York City Police Department, he served as a member of the House Select Committee on Assassinations which looked into the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. before joining OIG in 1979.

Evans has directed sensitive investigations concerning allegations of conflict of interest and scientific misconduct.

In managing the state fraud branch, Evans includes oversight responsibility in determining how effectively and efficiently the State Medicaid Fraud Control units in 41 states are detecting and investigating health care fraud and patient abuse.

Evans' bachelor's degree in criminal justice is from the John Hay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

Boyd, Maddox and Evans are among the many OIG and HHS employees whose dedication and hard work ensure that those who would abuse our tax-funded programs stand a good chance of being caught and punished.

(Dr. Sullivan is U.S. secretary of health and human services.)

## VIEW FROM HHS

by Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.



Meet some members of our Office of Inspector General—three top "cops on the beat" who help discover, punish and prevent fraud and abuse in the programs of the Department of Health and Human Services. They are examples of the many HHS civil servants who are serving Americans well—and guarding taxpayer dollars.

Eileen T. Boyd, deputy assistant inspector general for civil enforcement for 12 years, has had a career of more than 23 years of diversified federal management. A graduate of the Howard University School of Law, she also has attended the Federal Executive Institute and the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Since Congress passed the Civil Monetary Penalties Program in 1983 to punish Medicare and Medicaid fraud, she has implemented it for the department, recovering more than \$127,863,000 through 793 actions. In addition, Ms. Boyd's office has been responsible for excluding more than 4,000 medical providers who were defrauding these public programs.

Ms. Boyd is a member of the board of governors, National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association, and a member of the board of directors and vice president of the Association of Federal Investigators.

Charles C. Maddox, a graduate of Virginia Union University with a master's in criminal justice from George Washington University, is a regional inspector general for criminal investigations in charge of the Washington, D.C., field office.

Maddox joined OIG in 1981, after four years as an Air Force Military Policeman and 11 years in the Secret Service, first taking on directorship of the Security and Protection Division.

During his assignment in the Washington field office, there has been the ongoing investigation of the nation's generic drug industry by his office, working with the De-

The Clark County Health District is searching for persons who are able to serve as loving and supportive friends of patients and families experiencing terminal illness. These persons will serve as volunteers in the Health District Hospice Program.

Thirty (30) hours of training are provided for volunteers at the Clark County Health District. Additional training in special areas is also available. An application and personal interview are required prior to training.

Please read the following detailed information. If you think you can fill this very special calling, contact Edie Blanchard, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, Clark County Health District, 625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas - 383-1341.

### HOSPICE TRAINING RECRUITMENT

The Clark County Health District Hospice Program is looking for volunteers who are able to provide emotional support and assistance to terminally ill patients and their families.

Volunteers should be available 3-5 hours each week, be at least 18 years of age, and have their own transportation.

Extensive training will be provided at the Clark County Health District, beginning in September.

For more information or application, contact Edie Blanchard, coordinator of volunteer services, at 383-1341.

### SPECIAL CPR CLASSES

CPR-FIRST AID TRAINING INSTITUTE will teach a course called "Home Alone: How Do You Handle An Emergency?" designed for parents of new-

borns and toddlers. The class will include information of rescue breathing, choking, and child and infant CPR. An American Heart Association CPR card will be given to those who complete the course.

A Senior Citizen CPR class will be taught the last Wednesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The course will cover the Signs and Signals of a Heart Attack, Signs and Symptoms of a Stroke, Rescue Breathing, Choking, and Adult CPR. Senior Citizens, 55 and older, will be given a 25% discount; the cost is \$9.00, including cost of book, breathing shields, and AHA cards. The first Senior Citizen CPR class is September 30, 1992.

CPR-FIRST AID TRAINING INSTITUTE has also developed a special course for babysitters. The class, for boys and girls (11-18 years old), teaches safety, child and infant CPR and "basic" do's and don'ts of babysitting. Each student will receive an AHA CPR card and a "Babysitting" Certificate. The course will be held the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$17.00 and includes all teaching materials.

Anyone wishing any more information or wanting to register for a class should call Kenneth Glover or W.K. Vandygriff

at 876-9177.

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The Johnson Community School, 7701 Ducharme Ave., will offer a pair of CPR workshops this fall. The first seminar takes place Wednesday, October 14 and the second will follow on Thursday, November 12. Both sessions begin at 5:30 p.m. The cost of each workshop is \$11, which includes certification. Registration continues through October 5, for both sessions. The four-hour seminars will be taught by instructors from CPR Plus and are designed for teens and adults. These programs are sponsored by the City of Las Vegas. Call 229-6175.

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