

Flu Pulse PH: Participatory Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance in the Philippines

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INTRODUCTION

The Flu Pulse PH initiative is part of the Global Flu View (GFV) project, focusing on participatory influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance in the Philippines. This approach allows individuals to self-report ILI symptoms, enabling real-time health data collection. By integrating self-reported data into a global surveillance framework, the Flu Pulse PH project aims to enhance early detection and management of ILI outbreaks in the Philippines. 1,2

Key Objectives:



Stakeholder Collaboration: Engage key stakeholders in the Philippines, including the Department of Health (DOH), Philippine Genome Center, and local academic institutions, to integrate participatory surveillance (PS) data into the Global Flu View platform.



Enhanced Monitoring and Response: Utilize active public participation and real-time data collection to monitor and respond to influenza outbreaks with weekly updates. 1

Methodology:



Stakeholder Engagement:

- Engage DOH to integrate participatory surveillance into existing systems.

Public Awareness Campaigns:

- Raise public awareness through social media, printed materials, and local media to encourage participation.

Data Collection:

- Weekly data analysis to monitor ILI trends and assess public health needs.1,2

FINDINGS

As of **September 2024**, the Flu Pulse PH project has made considerable progress in establishing a participatory ILI surveillance system in the Philippines. The following highlights the student presenter's experience in establishing Flu Pulse PH in the Philippines:

Leveraging Key Networks: Established strong partnerships with prominent institutions such as local universities, the Philippine Genome Center, and the Department of Health (DOH) to initiate the development of Flu Pulse PH.

Direct Engagement with National Health Authorities: Secured a critical connection with the Epidemiology Bureau of the DOH, initiating essential communication channels for the project's national rollout.

High-Level Proposal Presentation: Successfully introduced the Flu Pulse PH initiative to the Senior Program Health Officers in a pivotal virtual meeting, garnering valuable feedback and commitment.

Follow-Up with Senior Leadership: Flew to the Philippines and conducted an in-person meeting with the Epidemiology Bureau's director and key staff, strengthening stakeholder engagement and support for the initiative.

Global Collaboration for Enhanced Implementation: Actively engaging with international partners to incorporate global insights and best practices in preparation for a broader launch.



Support provided by Ending Pandemics and Skoll Foundation

DISCUSSION

While the Department of Health (DOH) in the Philippines is receptive to the Flu Pulse PH participatory surveillance platform, further decision-making processes and discussions are necessary with DOH leadership to fully integrate the system into the country's health infrastructure.

DOH's Role:

- Clarify that Flu Pulse PH is a surveillance tool, not for providing medical advice or treatment. The platform is solely intended for reporting data.

Scheduling Challenges:

- Difficulties in securing DOH meetings due to the Mpx outbreak and typhoon-related health concerns.

FluTracking

- Hiring a surveillance officer/project coordinator in the Philippines
- Conducting a pilot program with local universities

Learning from International Partners:

- Scheduling meetings with FluTracking (Australia & Hong Kong) and SickSense (Thailand) to gather insights

SickSense

- Incentives
- Use SMS reporting
- Make the platform engaging and user-friendly

CONCLUSION

Flu Pulse PH presents a significant opportunity to improve ILI surveillance in the Philippines by engaging the public in disease monitoring. However, more work is needed to finalize stakeholder agreements and ensure smooth data integration. By addressing technological gaps and fostering public trust, this platform could greatly enhance early detection and response to flu outbreaks.1,2

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Acknowledgements: Special thanks to Dr. Onicio Batista Leal Neto for his guidance, my Global Flu View teammates Oluchi Kanma-Okafor and Joy Kinku Luzingo, the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, the Department of Health Epidemiology Bureau for their support, and my family and friends for their encouragement and assistance.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



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