

Innovative ESL Curriculum to Improve Vaccination Health Literacy and Confidence

By: Chien-Chi Huang AWFH Executive Director



ESL (English as a Second Language) to Advance Health Literacy

- •Two-fold learning process- strengthens language skills and health literacy simultaneously.
- •An avenue to reach historically hard-to-reach populations, such as immigrants without documentation and elderly immigrants (Santos et al., 2014)
- •Allows consideration of health information within context of daily life in a
- "culturally safe" environment (Taylor et al., 2008)
- •Flexibility in health literacy instruction (Wagner 2019)
- •Promoting health literacy interventions at both the individual and social level.



EducASIANS: Campus/Community Partnerships







asian women for health





International Institute of New England





Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center 波士頓華埠社區中心





Project Timeline

Oct - Dec (2020)

Reviewing project goals, objectives and timeline.

Presentations from academic partners and patients on health disparities.

Familiarizing ourselves with needs of target students



Jan - Mar

Draft lesson plan with materials and handouts

Gather initial feedback from ESL providers

Revise lesson plan prior to piloting



Apr - Jun

Pilot Hep B and Vaccine lesson plans.

Revise lesson plan based on feedback from ESL instructors

Discussion of how to expand and sustain efforts.

Next steps

Create COVID-19 vaccination, Dementia, and Alzheimer's lesson plan.



Adding resource list as part of the lesson plans.

Recruit and train corporate employees and college students as volunteer ESL instructors.



Outcome & Impact

- Successful piloting from 3 ESL organizations, reaching ~200 students in 10 classes.
- Positive feedback from students, and prompted further discussion (in high intermediate/advanced level classes) about health equity and health disparities.
- Achieved better understanding of Hep B beyond the ESL classroom: One of our ESL providers said this project led her to start a conversation with her mother regarding their family's Hep B and Liver Cancer history.



Questions?

