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PLANNING FOR A FLU PANDEMIC IS SUBJECT
OF COLLIER LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MEETING

NAPLES, March 15—The League of Women Voters of Collier County will hear from county officials on Monday, April 16 at 12:30 p.m. about the impact a widespread outbreak of influenza in a population without immunity to a particular virus would have in this community and what is being done to prepare for such an eventuality.

Dr. Joan Colfer, director of the Collier County Health Department, and Dan Summers, director of Collier County Bureau of Emergency Services, will be the speakers at the program open to the public at Norris Center in Naples.

“In the event of a pandemic, we would be experiencing a homeland security issue that, in a worst-case scenario, business as usual would cease,” said Chris Straton, president of the League of Women Voters of Collier County. “Government officials might have to implement drastic measures, such as shutting down restaurants and theaters, restrict travel, cancel public gatherings and close schools, among other measures.”

A moderately severe influenza pandemic could kill over half a million Americans, hospitalize more than two million and cost the U.S. economy \$160 to \$675 billion. Hospitals would be severely stressed.

Collier County agencies conducted a drill involving hundreds of volunteers this winter to test response mechanisms and to identify problem areas that need to be corrected.

“We need to learn how, as individuals, we can prepare and protect ourselves and our families if a flu pandemic should hit this area,” Straton said.

The public is invited to participate in a buffet luncheon at noon, preceding the program. Cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members; call the League at 239-263-4656 by 5 p.m. Thursday, April 12, for reservations.

For more information, visit www.lwvcolliercounty.org.