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PRESS RELEASE

Franklin VNA & Hospice Board of Directors Leads by Example

Franklin – If you haven't gotten your influenza vaccine yet, Franklin VNA & Hospice wants to remind you to get it. This year in particular we should be aware of the danger of influenza as we mark 100 years since the 1918 Influenza Pandemic.

"There can be no stronger advocacy than leading by example," says Bob Morin, President of the Franklin VNA & Hospice's Board of Directors. "We want individuals in the communities we serve to be safe and influenza free and the best way to show that we are committed to this is by getting vaccinated ourselves."

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that during the 1918 epidemic about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with the virus, causing 50 million deaths - 675,000 deaths in the United States alone. This huge number of deaths due to influenza caused the average lifespan in the United States to fall by 12 years.

In 1918 there was no influenza vaccine and people were limited to use of quarantine of the sick, encouraging good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and advising against gathering in groups in public to combat contracting the illness. Once people became sick with influenza or a secondary bacterial infection there was not much that could be done.

Thankfully we now have a vaccine, and while we haven't seen death tolls matching the 1918 epidemic 2017 was the worst year in recent history with the CDC estimating that the flu, as well as flu-related complications, were responsible for 80,000 U.S. deaths last winter. Those with chronic pulmonary diseases, those over 65 and children still remain the highest at risk for dying if they contract the flu.

Morin concludes, "We want to minimize the risk of our clients from getting the flu. Getting the vaccine is the responsible choice."

Franklin VNA & Hospice is an independent, non-profit organization established in 1945 to serve the Home Health care needs of the community. They provide home care, Hospice, clinic and community education services to Andover, Belmont, Boscawen, Canterbury, Franklin, Hill, Northfield, Sanbornton, Salisbury, Tilton, Webster and surrounding towns, as requested. For more information on services, donations, sponsoring a Memorial Brick or partnering with them for a stronger level of support for the Teuscher- Wilson Hospice Garden, call Franklin VNA & Hospice at (603)934-3454 or visit www.FranklinVNA.org.