2020/2021 FOOD HANDLERS MASS SCREENING EXERCISE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Ashaiman Municipal Assembly is by Law to ensure that food vendors or handlers within the Municipality undergo medical screening and declared fit every year before they handle or sell food. It is based on this the Assembly every year organizes the mass screening exercise to encourage the food handlers to undergo the screening

OBJECTIVE

To ensure that safe foods are sold to the public.

PERIOD

November, 2020 to March, 2021, and the exercise starts at 8:00am in a day.

TEAM MEMBERS

The Team Members were made up of 3 Environmental Health Officers and 2 personnel from the Community Clinic.

LOCATION

The exercise was a Municipal wide involving all the 4 Zonal Councils made up of 17 Electoral areas.

ACTIVITIES

1. HEALTH PROMOTION

Beginning of the exercise begins in the day, the food handlers were health educated on the following;

a. COVID-19 Protocols

b. To refrain from the use of spoiled or expired food items

c. To refrain from adulterating food or the use of adulterated food.

d. Encourage the use of iodated salt.

e. Observation of good hygienic practices.

F. Proper storage of cooked and uncooked food.

2. Screening

Sputum and blood samples are taken from a vendor for analysis at the facility. If there are no issues a certificate is issued to the food handler. But if there are issues the card is not issued, the food handler is treated and declared fit before the card is issued to the person.

CHALLENGES

1. The fear of COVID-19 pandemic disease scared a lot of food handlers from undergoing the screening exercise.
2. A lot of food handlers complained financially.
3. Food handlers claiming Information not reaching them on time to prepare.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Announcement should be started way ahead of time before the screening exercise starts.
2. There should be enforcement.