



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

RECEIVED JUL 26 2005

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

JUL 20 2005

Patrick J. McConnon, MPH
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Blvd., Suite 303
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Mr. McConnon:

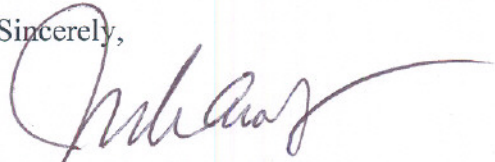
Thank you for your letter, dated July 24, 2005, that provided the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) position statement 05-EC-01 entitled "Refugee Health Care: Improving overseas and domestic health assessment and management of U.S.-bound refugees." The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) agrees with the recommendation to review and update the overseas health screening procedures.

ORR has joined a recent initiative convened by the Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA), along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) to address the issues presented in the CSTE position statement 05-EC-01. We are in the process of identifying gaps in the overseas health-screenings that are currently being conducted for U.S.-bound refugees. Our joint experiences with the resettlement of the Liberians, Lost Boys and Girls of Sudan, and Hmong refugees have demonstrated the need to improve overseas health screenings as critically important to both refugees and the broader U.S. public health.

This HHS multi-agency working group met on July 5, 2005 to review the CDC DGMQ proposal for revising overseas screening for U.S.-bound refugees. We agree with the proposed recommendations and CDC will draft a departmental recommendation for how to best cover the expenses incurred through instituting their screening recommendations. Pending the HHS Secretary's approval, we anticipate presenting this departmental

We appreciate your attention in this matter, and look forward to continued collaboration with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. If you have further questions, please contact Marta Brenden, ORR at 202-205-3589.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nguyen Van Hanh', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nguyen Van Hanh, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement