Outreach report 2021

Thank you for your support of LFHC's outreach activities.
This is the second year of COVID and it has resulted in various restrictions on our activities, but we have made 293 visits as of the end of Nov! We look back on this challenge as a good opportunity to find new possibilities for our activities. I would like to summarize some of our activities this year as a report on 2021.
We are always grateful for your support, which allows us to continue our activities today.
Thank you for your continued support!

Kazumi Akao
Director of Outreach program
Lao Friends Hospital for Children

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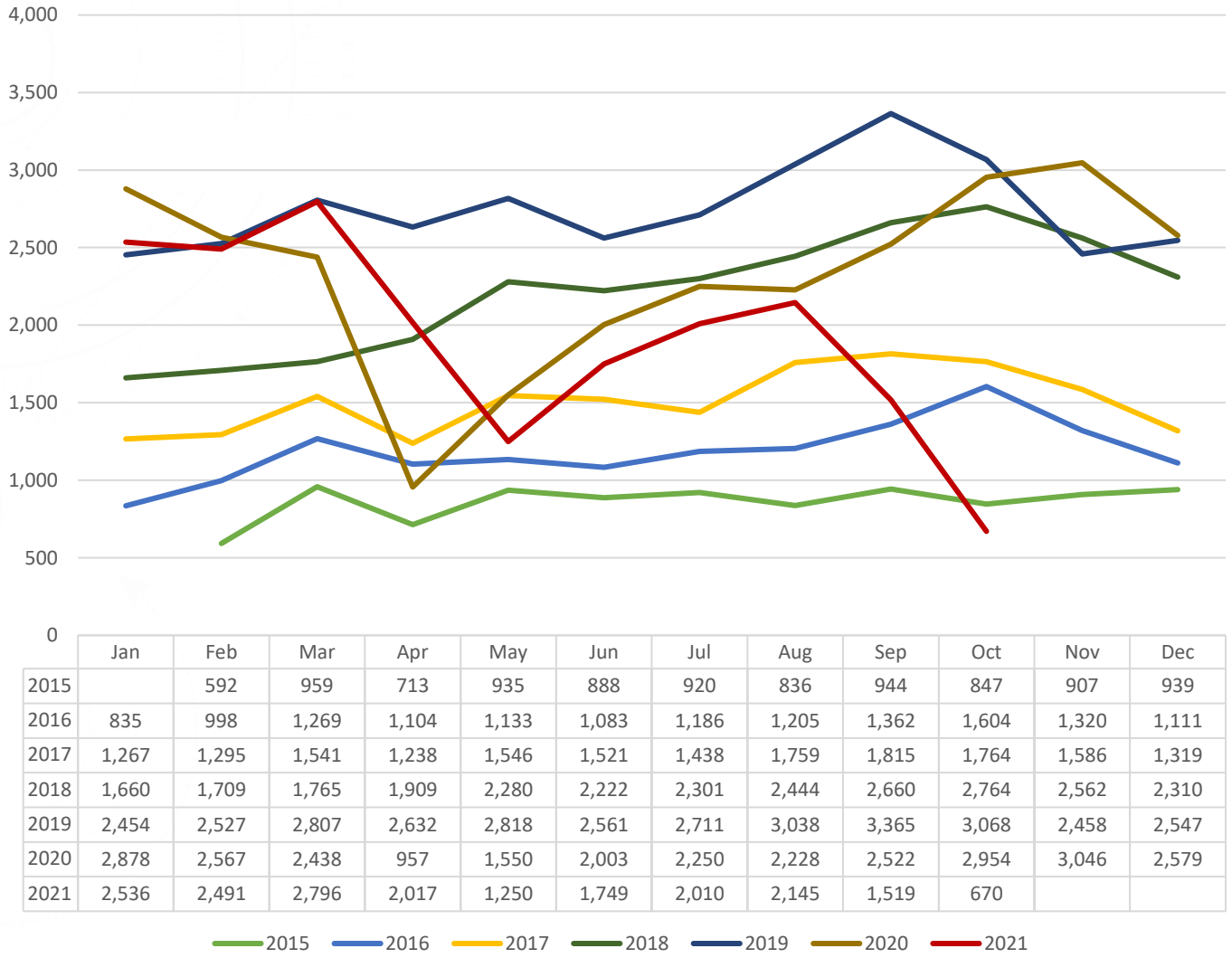
Number of number coming to OPD



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2015		592	959	713	935	888	920	836	944	847	907	939
2016	835	998	1,269	1,104	1,133	1,083	1,186	1,205	1,362	1,604	1,320	1,111
2017	1,267	1,295	1,541	1,238	1,546	1,521	1,438	1,759	1,815	1,764	1,586	1,319
2018	1,660	1,709	1,765	1,909	2,280	2,222	2,301	2,444	2,660	2,764	2,562	2,310
2019	2,454	2,527	2,807	2,632	2,818	2,561	2,711	3,038	3,365	3,068	2,458	2,547
2020	2,878	2,567	2,438	957	1,550	2,003	2,250	2,228	2,522	2,954	3,046	2,579
2021	2,536	2,491	2,796	2,017	1,250	1,749	2,010	2,145	1,519	670		

Statistics

Laos had been restricting the number of people entering the country from abroad to control the spread of corona infection; however, in April this year, a case of infection from overseas was found and a lockdown was imposed. As you can see in the graph, the number of patients coming to the hospital (red line) dropped drastically due to the restriction. Even after the lockdown was lifted, the number of patients visiting the hospital remained low due to the fear of COVID.

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Precautionary measures in rural areas

Since the middle of September, there has been an increase in the number of infected people, and the health department has notified outreach program to temporarily suspend the visiting patients in villages. Therefore, only urgent patients were allowed to visited with a letter of permission from the health department. However, at the entrance of many villages, gates like the one in the photo were built and gatekeepers were stationed.

We showed them the permission letter from the health department and explained the situation, but it was a struggle to get their approval in some villages. There were many days when we had to leave early in the morning and return late at night, as we were not allowed to stay overnight in some areas.

It was very stressful not being able to take action quickly to see patients in palliative care or patients whose medication must be continued.

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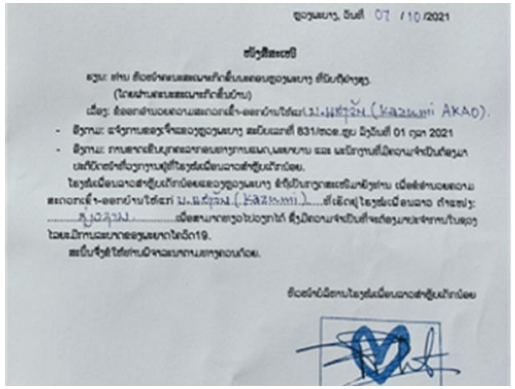

ວຽງຈັນ, ວັນທີ 07 /10 /2021

ໜັງສືຮຽນເຊີນ

ຮຽນ: ທ່ານ ຫົວໜ້າພະແນກສຶກສາທິການ ແລະ ກິລາ ນະຄອນຫຼວງ ວຽງຈັນ

(ໂດຍຜ່ານພະແນກສຶກສາທິການ)

ເລື່ອງ: ຂໍອອກໃບອະນຸຍາດເດີນທາງ-ອອກບ້ານໃຫ້ແກ່ ນ.ແສງ (Kaysmi AKAD).

- ອີງຕາມ: ຂໍ້ຕົກລົງຂອງຫ້ອງວ່າການປົກຄອງ ສະບັບເລກທີ 831/ກວຈ.ຫຼ ລົງວັນທີ 01 ກຸມ 2021
- ອີງຕາມ: ການຮຽກຮ້ອງຂອງພະແນກ ແລະ ພະແນກ ...

ໂດຍເຫັນວ່າ ...

ໂດຍເນື້ອໃນດັ່ງກ່າວຂ້າງເທິງ ... ຈຶ່ງເຊີນ ... ເດີນທາງ ... ເພື່ອ ...

ໃນເມື່ອມີການລະບາດຂອງພະຍາດໂຄວິດ19.

ຂໍ້ມູນຕິດຕໍ່ ...

ຫົວໜ້າພະແນກ ...

At the hospital…

During the lockdown, hospital staff commuted to work with traffic permits (bottom left photo).

Until last month, the temperature in the hospital was over 30 degrees Celsius, it was very hot to be wearing PPE (photo top left, bottom right). Even though the number of patients coming to the hospital has decreased dramatically, there are still patients who need to be hospitalized. When I took off the PPE, I was sweating inside. It's like a sauna and drains a lot of energy. Fortunately, it is moving into cool season so that we feel less stressed now. One day we noticed that there was a shortage of PPE which has been consumed in large quantities every day, so we had to order some in urgently. We now have a pile of those PPE supplies in the hallway for daily use (Photo top right).

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End-of-life care

Can you guess what the staff in the photo are doing? Actually, there are patients at LFHC who unfortunately die despite treatment. In such cases, due to ethnic customs, families are sometimes not allowed to take the bodies home with them, so they bury them near the hospital before going home. In some cases, they are not allowed to accompany the patient to the burial itself, but have to hand over the body to the staff of the adjacent provincial hospital. The cardboard boxes were used to transport the bodies to the burial site. Whenever I saw them, my heart broke, and I brought it up to discuss with outreach staff. I then came up with the idea of making a coffin according to the Lao culture. We are very careful about cultural sensitivity, but this idea was accepted as a great idea! Everyone did a good job and made beautiful coffins. I hope we don't have to use this many times, but when we do, I hope it will help ease the pain of the families. The word "end-of-life care" is a word unique to Japan, but I would like to think about end-of-life care with Lao staff that fits the culture of Laos.

Make it out of cardboard! You might think it's not a good idea, but Lao staff says it's okay.
In Laos, shiny colors including gold and silver are appropriate colors for funerals. Using those colors as a base, flowers and heart cutouts were pasted on the box to make it less lonely. All of the designs were thought up by the Lao staff.
I realized that it is important for us foreigners to learn about this kind of culture from the Lao people in a humble way.

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It is a holistic approach!

There are patients with physical disabilities that make it difficult for them to swallow. At home after discharge from the hospital, liquid food is infused through a nasal tube for nutritional support.

Baby A is one of them, and we follow up regularly with homecare visit. For these children, you can tell if the feeding was going well by their weight gain, but A's weight was decreasing. And we didn't see the tube in nose. Hmmm, why? At first, A's mother said that she had to take it out because A didn't like the tube, but when we talked to her further, she told us that the blender for making liquid food was broken. When we checked it, we found out that it was not the blender but the fuse of electricity. Outreach went to buy a fuse and completed the repair. A homecare nurse needs to have skills of medical + appliance repair + compassionate heart!

This is what compassionate care is all about, a holistic approach. This is compassionate care and a holistic approach. I was happy to see it and toasted the growth of the staff.

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