



MRC ★ In Touch

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CALENDAR

March-

3/24-3/25 -
Psychological First Aid
Instructor Train-the-
Trainer Workshops
Denver, Colorado

April-

4/4-4/8 -
2009 Integrated Medical,
Public Health,
Preparedness, and
Response Training
Summit
Dallas, Texas

4/14-4/15-
National Public Health
Performance Standards
Program
Columbus, Ohio

4/16-4/17-
MAPP Meeting
Columbus, Ohio

Featured Article

Immunizations and the MRC

Many healthcare personnel (workers and volunteers) do not receive important immunizations, which leaves them, their families, and individuals at-risk of catching a life-threatening illness or disease. It is very important that MRC volunteers are up-to-date with receiving their vaccinations, especially since they may be deployed to work in a potentially high-risk environment at any given time.

A lack of funding is usually the number one reason why volunteers do not receive vaccinations. However, if you look at this predicament from another angle, you could argue that not giving volunteers access to vaccinations could incur the cost of illness or even death among patients, volunteers, and their families.

In February 2008, a devastating F3 tornado hit Allen County-Scottsville, Kentucky. Prior to the disaster, local firefighters had not been vaccinated against tetanus, nor had other local rescue and recovery personnel. In the aftermath of the tornado, Jennifer Fugate, Allen County-Scottsville MRC Coordinator, decided that vaccinations were an immediate necessity. The health department nurses began to administer the vaccinations at MRC orientation trainings.

The MRC unit used about \$3,000 from their initial Capacity Building Award funding to provide vaccinations for Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) to unit members, or potential unit members. Fugate said that they haven't vaccinated as many of the volunteers as they would like to, but they are still working on this initiative.

Tips

- If you are unsure about immunization requirements for your local MRC unit, check with your local hospital about immunization guidelines for their healthcare personnel. The hospital should be up-to-date with immunization guidelines issued by the Joint Commission.

LINKS

Medical Reserve Corps

MRC at NACCHO

2009 Integrated Medical,
Public Health,
Preparedness, and
Response Training
Summit

- The Joint Commission will be releasing a document in mid-2009 that will include examples of successful strategies and tools that have improved immunization rates among healthcare personnel. Check their Web site for the upcoming release at www.jointcommission.org/.
- The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Health Care Personnel Initiative to Improve Influenza Vaccination Toolkit includes information and presentations about promoting vaccinations among healthcare personnel. Discover this information at www.hhs.gov/ophs/programs/initiatives/vacctoolkit/index.html.
- *Influenza Immunization Among Health Care Personnel Call to Action: Improving Low Influenza Vaccination Rates Among Health Care Personnel Requires Comprehensive Approach, Institutional Commitment* is a research report that was written in 2008 by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases and is available at www.nfid.org/pdf/publications/fluhealthcarecta08.pdf.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), each year, thousands of children (ages 14 and younger) are injured or killed as occupants in motor vehicle crashes. Many of these reported injuries and fatalities can be prevented through the proper use of child car seats and booster seats. In the late 1990s, NHTSA developed a standard curriculum and certification program in child passenger safety. This program is designed to train individuals in car seat installation and provides details on how to conduct child safety seat checks, and other related child passenger safety measures.

The National Child Passenger Safety Training Program still exists today and continues to train individuals such as local health department staff members, physicians, educators, and others as Certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technicians. Due to its role as the program's certifying body, most communities conduct the program through their local Safe Kids Worldwide coalition, which also often performs community car seat check-ups.

Local chapters of Safe Kids Worldwide are continuously looking for new CPS Technicians. This would be an excellent opportunity for MRC volunteers to get involved in preventing child injuries in their communities. If you are interested in becoming a Certified CPS Technician, contact your local Safe Kids Worldwide Coalition at www.safekids.org/ or visit the National CPS Certification Web site at www.safekids.org/certification/index.html.

Announcements

Integrated Training Summit

The 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness, and Response Training Summit will be held in Dallas, Texas from April 4–8, 2009. [Click here for details.](#)

Notification of Capacity Building Awards

MRC units that were awarded a Capacity Building Award in Year 3 (2008-2009) have received notifications and contracts. If you received an award and did not receive notification or a contract, please contact Justine Uhlenbrock at juhlenbrock@naccho.org.

AHRQ Released New Report

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released a new report, *Recommendations for a National Mass Patient and Evacuee Movement, Regulating, and Tracking System*. This report recommends developing a coordinated multi-jurisdictional evacuation system that builds on existing resources and procedures available at the local, state, and federal level. Read more about it [here](#).

Funding Opportunities for Youth Programs

A list of funding opportunities for MRC units working with youth. [Click here for details.](#)

To submit information for either MRC: In Touch or MRC: In Focus, please contact Megan Skupien at mskupien@naccho.org or (202) 783-1376.



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