



MRC ★ In Touch

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MRC Volunteers of Larimer County Contribute to Mass Vaccination Success

During the month of November, volunteers from the MRC of Larimer County (CO) along with MRCs throughout Colorado, participated in mass meningococcal vaccination clinics for students and staff at the Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins. Twenty-one of the 24 units in Colorado were represented at the clinics.

Since the spring of 2010, Larimer County encountered seven cases of severe meningococcal disease, resulting in four deaths. Many of the cases had ties to the university. The clinics were held to provide mass vaccination against the bacteria in an attempt to block its further transmission among this high risk group.

Meningococcal disease can be life-threatening if not treated. Even if the disease is treated in time to prevent death, victims of this disease may face life-altering affects such as difficulty walking, talking, learning disabilities, hearing loss, organ failure and circulatory impacts to skin and muscles, sometimes resulting in the need for amputation.

As the meningococcal disease outbreak evolved in the community, the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment stayed in close contact with both the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

It was during this time that the CDC was reviewing its vaccine recommendations and determined that the vaccine for meningococcal disease might not be effective for as long as initially thought, thus requiring booster doses for certain groups at risk of developing the illness.

College students comprise one of the groups with the highest risk of exposure to the bacteria and of developing one of the serious, sometimes fatal, forms of the disease (meningitis or septimcemia).

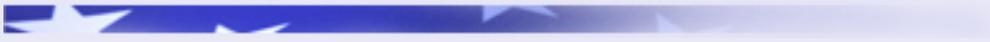
Both the CDC and CDPHE recommended a mass vaccination clinic on campus at CSU. The target population for the vaccinations was

approximately 20,000 people including students, faculty, and staff who were 29 years old or younger; in addition to household members of CSU students, faculty, and staff between the ages of 2 to 29 years old.

When the call was made for clinic volunteers, local and state e-mail alerts were sent from the Colorado Volunteer Management System by the local and state MRC unit coordinators. MRC volunteers and other volunteers such as hospital nurses throughout Colorado, quickly responded. On November 5 (10 AM–6 PM) and November 11 (10 AM–5 PM), with approximately 180 vaccinators per clinic, MRC volunteers provided vaccinations, helped with general medical screening, and contributed to patient movement at the clinics. After the clinics, a total of 10,168 people were vaccinated at the two CSU clinics.

The MRC of Larimer County was prepared for the mass vaccination clinic through its recent experience with successful H1N1 vaccination clinics. The meningococcal clinics used processes that were successful in the H1N1 clinics such as the volunteer registration system; a public health website registration for vaccine registration; the use of the Incident Command System; and Just-in-Time training for volunteers.

The clinics may have set a new world record for the number of vaccinations at a one-day clinic. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the current record-holder for most vaccinations given at a clinic is held by Kaiser Permanente which provided which provided 6,215 flu vaccinations in 8 hours in 2010. The Larimer County/CSU clinics provided 7,608 vaccinations in an 8-hour period.



MRC/NACCHO Connections



Community Health Status Indicators Project

The Community Health Status Indicators Project (CHSI) Web site makes detailed health and demographic information about each of the nation's 3,141 counties widely available and easily accessible. County-level reports measure each county against national averages, other counties with similar demographics, and Healthy People 2010 targets. The website provides the public the most detailed picture of health at the county level and is an invaluable resource for public health departments, policymakers, and community advocates.

The CHSI reports provide an update to reports released in 2000.

CHSI project partners include NACCHO, the Public Health Foundation, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials,

the National Association of Local Boards of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Library of Medicine.

<http://www.communityhealth.hhs.gov>

Announcements

Register Today for the 2011 Integrated Training Summit

The 2011 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit will take place May 1–5, 2011 in Grapevine, TX. To learn more about the Integrated Training Summit, visit <http://www.integratedtrainingsummit.org>.

To register for the Summit, visit <http://www.integratedtrainingsummit.org/registration.php>. Registration fees will increase after March 1, 2011.

How to Register

There is not a direct link to register. The application and registration are combined into one. Visit <http://www.integratedtrainingsummit.org>. Click the tab on the top that says "Registration." At the top of the page click on the "Register Now" link. Choose your registration type in the "Contact Type" drop down menu (either MRC Unit Leader scholarship or MRC State Coordinator scholarship).

If you have any other questions, contact Laura Harrison at lharrison@naccho.org.

OCVMRC and NACCHO Announces 2011 MRC Special Projects Awards for States

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are pleased to announce the *2011 MRC Special Projects Awards for States* competitive application process. The purpose of this funding is to build and enhance the relationship between the State and local MRC units with the goal of increasing the capacity of MRC units through statewide initiatives. Twenty-five awards in the amount of \$15,000 are available.

Applications will be available online from January 18th 2011 to March 1st 2011 at 5 pm (EST). To access the application page, visit: <http://eweb.naccho.org/eweb>. For more information on the 2011 MRC Special Projects Awards for States process, please visit: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/index.cfm>.

If you have any other questions about applying for the *2011 MRC*

Special Projects Awards for States application process, please contact Rebecca Gehring at (202)783-1418 or MRC Awards@naccho.org.

MRC Lessons Learned and Experience Sharing

"MRC lessons learned and experience sharing" is a way for MRC units to share their practices, examples, and success stories. It is designed to highlight the challenges and successes of MRC units' involvement with emergency preparedness, response, and public health activities; therefore, MRC units and their leaders can learn from one another. _

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/resources/mrcshare.cfm>

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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