



MRC ★ In Touch

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January—Cervical Health Awareness Month

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Will County MRC Helps Feed Students with Food Drive

The Will County Health Department (WCHD) of Illinois is a partner of the Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community, an organization that works with community partners and volunteers to help create a safe, caring, and drug-free community.

Fighting hunger is an activity of the coalition. In the Wilmington School District, 19 students go without food during school hours each week. After attending a Wilmington Coalition for a Health Community committee meeting, the WCHD MRC unit coordinator, Jenny Blair, was inspired to plan a food drive to collect food for these children.

The food drive was promoted via e-mail to all Will County Health Department employees and MRC volunteers. During the month of December, the food drive was held at the Will County Health Department in Joliet, IL as well as at branch offices in University Park and Bolingbrook, IL.

Seven MRC volunteers collected about 800 of the approximately 2,000 total food items donated to the Healing Hunger Campaign. Many of the donations were provided anonymously through drop boxes left in health department employee lunch rooms. The canned goods collected were important items as they can be consumed without cooking by those students who do not have permanent homes.

After the food is donated, the First Christian Church, which partners with the Healing Hunger Campaign, supplies students with backpacks full of food to take home for themselves and to their families. The students then return the backpack to be refilled each week.

If you are interested in starting a food drive in your community or getting your unit involved with a similar activity, contact your local food bank at

<http://www.feedingamerica.org>.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

Public Health Emergency Response

NACCHO's Public Health Preparedness Team strives to keep local health departments up-to-date with helpful resources. As part of this effort, NACCHO now provides local health departments with hazard-appropriate tools.

This webpage provides access to tools and resources that LHDs and communities can use to manage the aftermath of severe winter weather. For more information, visit <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/pher.cfm>.

Announcements

2011–2012 CBAs

The Capacity Building Award (CBA) program is for MRC units to develop unit capacity and community resiliency through projects and trainings within their community.

E-mail notifications regarding awards were distributed during December 20–23, 2011 from mrc@naccho.org. If you have not received your notification, please check your spam filter. When e-mailing with questions, include the name and number of your MRC unit and state for reference.

If your unit was awarded the 2011–2012 CBA or if you are modifying a budget for any year you received a CBA, please visit <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/CBA.cfm> for further information and guidance.

Attend the 2012 Integrated Training Summit

The 2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It will be held during May 21-25, 2012 in Nashville, Tennessee. This forum permits coordination, collaboration and interaction amongst the target audience—the leaders and members of preparedness and response partner organizations. For more information, visit <http://www.integratedtrainingsummit.org>.

Join the NACCHO Teleconference

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is hosting a teleconference for local health department senior leaders to discuss public health issues around the Occupy Wall Street protests.

Tuesday, January 24, 2012
1 PM–2 PM (EST)
Bridgeline: 888-790-3994
Passcode: NACCHO

Please mark your calendars and join us for the call.

Register Today for the 2012 PHP Summit

At the 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit, public health professionals and partners from across the nation will present new research, new tools, and new practices to build and sustain a progressive public health preparedness infrastructure at the local, state, tribal, and territorial levels. The 2012 Summit will be held in Anaheim, CA during February 21–24, 2012.

Join your colleagues at the Summit and take the opportunity to regroup, refocus, and refresh your approach to public health preparedness! Register today at <http://www.phprep.org>.

NACCHO Hosts Webinar on IOM Report on Prepositioning of Antibiotics for Anthrax

In early November, NACCHO hosted a PREP-inar on the recent report by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) on the prepositioning of antibiotics for anthrax. The presenters were Dr. Robert Bass, the Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems and chairman of the IOM Committee on Prepositioned Medical Countermeasures for the Public, and Dr. Herminia Palacio, Executive Director of the Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (TX), and member of the IOM Committee on Prepositioned Medical Countermeasures for the Public.

The NACCHO sponsored PREP-inar highlighted the IOM report findings, explained the different types of prepositioning strategies, highlighted the decision-aiding framework provided in the report, discussed the potential implications and planning considerations of these findings on state, local, and tribal health departments. The full recordings, which include audio/video and just audio, plus a PDF version of the slide presentation, are available on NACCHO PREP-inar website at <http://www.naccho.org/prepinars>.

You may also find the full IOM report at <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Prepositioning-Antibiotics-for-Anthrax.aspx>.

To submit information for either MRC: In Touch or MRC: In Focus, please contact Megan Skupien at

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