



MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

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www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Featured Article

Cape Cod MRC Partners with Citizen Corps Council Agencies for Volunteer Reception Center Training

Cape Cod MRC (MA) partnered with the local Citizen Corps council to participate in a volunteer reception center drill for spontaneous volunteers on September 30 at the Barnstable County Complex. Participating agencies included the American Red Cross, Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee, the Community Emergency Response Team, and Senior Corps, and allowed volunteers to practice staffing the center in the event of a real world emergency where spontaneous volunteers would be looking for a way to offer their skills.

Fourteen Cape Cod MRC volunteers participated in the drill, reviewing a training in the morning and interacting with volunteer actors in the afternoon. The drill incorporated a video about the various organizations and what they were looking for in volunteers, background check information, and the need to meet the criteria from the accepting organization. The drill concluded with a hot wash where participants identified what worked well and what needed improvement, including ways to ensure security of volunteers' information and logistical items such as signage and the optimal places to play the video.

Due to the complexity of the geography of Cape Cod, the Citizen Corps council has identified two additional sites that could serve as volunteer reception centers in the event of an emergency, including the Wampanoag Tribal Council in Mashpee in the Upper Cape and in the Lower Cape in Harwich. The Citizen Corps Council plans to discuss another drill at the Mashpee location in summer 2015.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

New Features Available on MRC Connect

Are you on MRC Connect? Discover the first social media application for the MRC at <http://mrcconnect.org> and download the mobile application for your [iPhone/iPad](#) or [Android phone/tablet](#). MRC Connect offers a great way to stay in touch with other unit leaders while you are in the field by connecting users to topical discussions and unique task reports to share your unit's best practices. Check out the new task options added to MRC Connect to share your unit's experiences and to earn points: "Call Down Drill" and "Where Do You Learn?" Special thanks to Kelly Hitt, Grundy County MRC (IL) Coordinator, for suggesting the "Where Do You Learn?" task!

As part of a recent update to MRC Connect, you can also now directly upload videos from YouTube or Vimeo. To share videos on MRC Connect, simply copy the video link into the text box portion of discussions or tasks. Your video will then automatically embed into your post!

Stay tuned to the MRC listserv for NACCHO's "Task Tip Tuesday" series for a new tip every week on how to use MRC Connect for your unit. If you have any questions about getting started with MRC Connect, view these [videos](#) or email mrc@naccho.org.

Announcements

New Public Health Funding Opportunities Available

Four public health funding opportunities that may be of interest to MRC unit leaders are now available:

- Applications are now being accepted for fellows and host sites for three public health informatics fellowships sponsored by Project SHINE (Strengthening Health Systems through Interprofessional Education). Project SHINE provides capacity building opportunities at health departments in health systems, informatics, and

epidemiology. More details, including eligibility information and application deadlines, are available at www.shinefellows.org.

- NACCHO invites eligible local health departments to participate in a demonstration site project to increase their capacity to work with healthcare providers and other key stakeholders to improve HPV vaccination rates in their communities. [Applications are due December 19.](#)
- Through support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NACCHO has released a competitive funding opportunity for Health in All Policies (HiAP) led by local health departments (LHDs). The aim of this project is to advance the progress of HiAP at the local level by LHDs and to encourage sustainable strategies for embedding health considerations into governmental structures and processes that will result in improved community health. [Applications are due December 19.](#)
- The BUILD Health Challenge is a national award program designed to support community collaborations that are working to give everyone a fair chance to be healthy. Specifically, the BUILD Health Challenge will give two kinds of awards—planning and implementation awards—to strengthen partnerships among hospitals, nonprofits, local health departments, and other community organizations to improve the health of low-income neighborhoods within cities with populations greater than 150,000. [The first round of applications are due January 16, 2015.](#)

NACCHO Launches the New Preparedness Coordinators Training and Mentoring Program

NACCHO is pleased to announce the launch of the [New Preparedness Coordinators Training and Mentoring Program](#). The program will introduce new local preparedness coordinators to guidance documents, support structures, agency resources, and useful tools that will help them acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to perform their job duties. The program will also include a mentoring component for entry level emergency preparedness coordinators to have easy access to experienced emergency preparedness coordinators.

As part of the program, NACCHO will host an interactive day-long workshop on Monday, April 13, 2015 at the [2015 Preparedness Summit](#) to provide a high-level overview of the most important policies, topics, and resources that impact public health preparedness. To enroll in the program as a new preparedness coordinator student or to become a preparedness mentor, [apply by December 15, 2014.](#)

Registration Now Open for the 2015 Preparedness Summit

Reserve your spot at the 2015 Preparedness Summit. Registration is now open for the Summit, which will take place April 14-17 in Atlanta. This year's theme is "Global Health Security: Preparing a Nation for Emerging Threats," and will highlight how in an increasingly interconnected world, public health threats such as Ebola can emerge on the other side of the globe and arrive on the doorstep of local health departments, hospitals, and other local health organizations. Join us to learn how the MRC plays a role as more global health threats are emerging in communities across the United States. Learn more about this year's Summit and register at <http://preparednesssummit.org/>. Check the site frequently as this year's full agenda will be posted soon!

MRC Stories from the Field

NACCHO's [Stories from the Field website](#) features stories about local public health successes and challenges. Two new stories about the MRC were recently added: "[Collin County MRC Conducts Contact Tracing and Monitoring for Ebola](#)" and "[Brookline MRC Initiates Novel Emergency Preparedness Buddies Program.](#)"

Do you have a story you would like to add to NACCHO's Stories from the Field website? Visit <http://nacchostories.org> for storytelling tips and to submit your unit's story. [See other MRC stories](#)



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments.

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