

RIM Monthly Newsletter

Updates and resources for SCALING UP COVID-19 PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES WITH REFUGEE, IMMIGRANT, AND MIGRANT (RIM) COMMUNITIES

April 2023

COVID-19 CDC Data Updates

US COVID-19 data: Number of confirmed cases in the last 7 days: 88,330

US Mpox Data: Total confirmed Mpox/Orthopoxviral cases: 30,361

Highlights of the Month

Site Spotlight: Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)

This month, NACCHO had the opportunity to speak with Ernesto Martinez, Director of Asset Building Programs, and Juan Mesa, Community Communications Manager, of Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA). MEDA, based in San Francisco's Mission District, "is advancing a national equity movement by building Latino prosperity, community ownership and civic power."

One notable program of MEDA is the "promotoras model." The promotoras model is a model that aims to give reproductive healthcare to women, however, during the rise of the pandemic, they "pivoted that model back to public health during the pandemic to really focus on making sure that [their] community was able to access the vaccine and get the right information."

Most organizations had to shift their priorities when the pandemic came about, and MEDA is no exception. Martinez explained that they had to focus on "making sure that folks have access to high quality housing, that [they were] addressing overcrowding, that [they were] getting them good quality jobs that they can afford places where they're able to either work from home or not live in overcrowded conditions." MEDA is superhero in the community. From housing to education to COVID resources, MEDA provides for the community in ways that are invaluable.

"We are culturally competent when it comes to providing services around economic development and financial empowerment, culturally competent when we build and preserve housing, culturally competent when we lend money to a small business," said Martinez. "That was very much our approach when it came to public health as it's kind of built into our DNA as an organization." MEDA continues to provide for the Latino community in San Francisco despite the many challenges COVID has brought about.



From the Field: Research, Policy, and Project Updates

Uniting for Ukraine Health Information

Newcomers who have arrived through the Uniting for Ukraine program have access to certain health benefits:

- Health insurance through a variety of state and federal programs
- Domestic Medical Screening

They also have two main health requirements:

- Certify that they have received certain vaccines
- Certify that they have received screening for tuberculosis (Tb)

Newcomers can complete these certifications in their [USCIS online account](#).

Resources for Organizations and Communities on the End of PHE

On May 11, 2023, the public health emergency (PHE) will expire, and many will see changes in COVID-19 healthcare costs, insurance coverage and renewals, and food benefits. These changes are likely to disproportionately impact some refugee, immigrant, and migrant (RIM) communities.

Use these resources to equip your organization and the clients you serve to be prepared for these changes when they begin this spring.

Surge in Varicella Infections within RIM Populations

Lately, the news has reported a worrisome surge in varicella infections within Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant (RIM) populations, with children being particularly affected. Limited access to healthcare services, lower vaccination rates, and language barriers often contribute to the spread of the virus in these populations. To address this public health challenge, it is crucial to provide tailored information and resources to RIM communities and the professionals who serve them.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a range of resources that can help educate RIM communities about varicella prevention and vaccination, as well as support healthcare providers in their efforts to curb the spread of the virus. We encourage you to review and share the following CDC resources:

[Chickenpox Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know | CDC](#)

[Varicella Vaccination Information for Healthcare Professionals | CDC](#)

[Pink book: Varicella | CDC](#)

[Varicella \(chickenpox\) Vaccine Information Statement \(immunize.org\)](#)

[Health Education Materials and Resources for Immigrants, Refugees, and Migrants | CDC \(varicella poster available in Dari, Pashto, and English\)](#)

[SPIRAL: Patient Information by Topic \(tufts.edu\)](#)

[Chickenpox | Varicella | MedlinePlus](#)

NRC-RIM prepares organizations for an end to the Public Health Emergency

The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants (NRC-RIM) published a set of resources aimed at equipping organizations and communities to prepare for the end of the public health emergency (PHE) on May 11.

Resources for organizations include a conversation guide, a guidebook for client-facing staff, and key messages. Organizations will also have a set of translated resources aimed at communities, including a fact sheet, social media assets, and a simple table describing how costs will change. Translations are on the way in 18 languages; Dari, Pashto and Rohingya materials will have an audio component.

NRC-RIM partners have developed a number of resources that will assist organizations in their public health communications. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) created a flyer that summarizes health requirements for Ukrainian parolees; translations in Ukrainian and Russian are coming soon.

The Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN) published a manual called Designing Community-Based Communication Campaigns. The manual summarizes MCN's process for customizing the Vaccination Is campaign to meet the needs of specific local communities.

For more information, visit their website, sign up for their newsletter, and follow them on Twitter or Facebook.

COVID Emergency Declarations are Ending. What Happens to Migrant & Immigrant Health and Health Access?

At the end of January, the Biden Administration announced that federal emergency declarations around COVID-19 will expire on May 11, 2023. The emergency declarations paved the way for numerous programs and services that greatly benefited the most underserved, and this change will reduce health supports for certain segments of the population – particularly migrant and immigrant families who may be without insurance or on Medicare or Medicaid, have poorer access to health services, or have low incomes. Additionally, the end of COVID emergency declarations may signal an end to Title 42, the health policy that has significantly altered the border landscape for asylum seekers throughout the pandemic.

To read more of Migrant Clinicians Networks article, click here.

Virtual Communities Info

Join our Virtual Communities!

How to Sign Up for Virtual Communities (VC)

- Email membership@naccho.org requesting an account
- Once membership has created you an account, email RIM@naccho.org to be added to the group
- You will then be added to the VC page and sent instructions on using the page
- It takes 24-72 hours to enroll in the VC after membership creates an account for you



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.