

RIM Monthly Newsletter

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

June 30, 2022

COVID-19 CDC Data Updates

US COVID-19 data: 87.1M cases and 1M deaths; 145,498 new cases and 524 deaths in last 7 days (data updated 6/30/2022)

US COVID-19 Vaccination data: 259.9M Population \geq 5 Years of Age fully vaccinated (data updated 6/30/2022)

Highlights of the Month

Afghan Health Initiative (AHI)

The Afghan immigrant and refugee community is fairly new to the United States having begun immigrating here as of Fiscal Year 2010 as a direct result of an agreement between the US Government and Afghanistan to provide Special-Immigrant Visa's (SIV's) to Afghan nationals working with the US Government, and populations recently affected by the crisis in Afghanistan. Formed by a group of public health practitioners, educators, and community leaders with the common goal of advocating for the needs of the growing Afghan immigrant population, Afghan Health Initiative (AHI) is a community-based organization that provides culturally and linguistically appropriate health communication services to Afghan immigrants in South King County, Washington.

As a result of language/cultural barriers, systemic inequities, and structural racism, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted Afghan immigrants and refugees in King County. As a trusted resource in the community, AHI utilizes the NACCHO-RIM grant to implement preventative and mitigative services to the Afghan community in Washington.

Navid Hamidi (Executive Director and co- founder of AHI) credits the key to the organization's success to forecasting and managing the community needs, which feed into data, systems, and services within the major programs at AHI, such as, Health and Wellness, and Family Programs, Youth Resiliency, and Case Management. Read more about the organization [here](#).



World Refugee Day 2022

The World Refugee Day marked on June 20th is an occasion to raise awareness on the unique health needs of refugees and people on the move, and the challenges they may face in accessing healthcare during their journeys and in the host country.

Today there are some 1 billion migrants globally, about 1 in 7 of the global population. These include 281 million international migrants and 82.4 million forcibly displaced (48 million internally displaced, 26.4 million refugees, 4.1 million asylum seekers). The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimates there are many millions of stateless people globally.

The experience of migration is a key determinant of health and well-being. Refugees and migrants remain among the most vulnerable members of society faced often with xenophobia; discrimination; poor living, housing, and working conditions; and inadequate access to health services, despite frequently occurring physical and mental health problems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed additional challenges both in terms of increased risk of infection and death experienced by refugees and migrants and has highlighted existing inequities in access to and utilization of health services. Refugees and migrants have also suffered the negative economic impact of lockdown and travel restrictions.

Refugees and migrants need to be in good health to protect both themselves and host populations. They have the human right to health, and countries have an obligation to provide refugee and migrant sensitive health care services.

[Watch the video](#) by NRC-RIM acknowledging World Refugee Day 2022.

2022 North American Refugee Health Conference (NARHC) held on June 23- 25, 2022

Hosted by Society of Refugee Healthcare Providers and National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM), the conference was held at Huntington Convention Center, Cleveland, Ohio. About 700+ attendees were present at the annual 3-day conference for healthcare and resettlement professionals working in refugee and immigrant health.

The NACCHO- RIM division was part of invited guests to host a workshop on “Strengthening Partnership and Community Engagement within the Public Health Continuum to Collectively Mitigate Communicable Diseases in Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant Communities”. Special recognition and appreciation go to our sponsored panelists such as Korean Community Center of the East Bay (KCCEB), Open Path Resources (OPR), and Refugee Women's Network (RWN); with technical support by the National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM) Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility team operating out of University of Minnesota, University of Washington, and the CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ). The workshop was designed as a breakout session with each organization highlighting their experiences working with various RIM communities in California, Minnesota, and Georgia State respectively.

News and Announcements

2022 NACCHO360 Conference

Counting down until #NA360 in Atlanta! Will you be there? www.naccho360.org #NA360

The 2022 NACCHO 360 Conference, to be held virtually and in-person July 19–21, 2022, in Atlanta at the Hyatt Regency. This year's theme, looking to the Future: Reshaping the Public Health System will explore how the local public health workforce and its stakeholders can move forward amid an ongoing crisis while implementing traditional and innovative approaches to restructure a system built to protect the health of communities nationwide.

Has your local health department participated in the 2022 Profile study yet?

Find a NACCHO Research Team member at the NACCHO booth in the Exhibit Hall during the upcoming NACCHO360 annual conference. We'll verify whether your agency has completed its survey, and the first 10 people from a health department with a completed Profile study will win a free NACCHO360 registration for next year's conference. Prepare now by ensuring your leaders complete the survey before arriving in Atlanta!

Rules:

- Each local health department is eligible to receive only one free registration.
- The free registration can be used by any person within the winning local health department.
- NACCHO staff must verify that your local health department has submitted a completed 2022 Profile survey prior to July 19, 2022.

Don't forget to register for the first-ever Public Health Appreciation Reception on the evening of July 20! To add the Reception to your existing NACCHO360 registration, please login to your "MyNACCHO" account and purchase the Public Health Appreciation Reception by going to "My Events" then selecting "Add Workshops."

The health and safety of every attendee is paramount to us. NACCHO is taking every measure to ensure the 2022 NACCHO360 Conference is safe and health protocols are strictly enforced. NACCHO360 requires all participants to be fully vaccinated to participate. Facial mask wearing is also required for all indoor activities at NACCHO360. Complete your vaccination verification through this link [VeriFLY process](#) no later than Friday, July 8.

From the Field: Research, Policy, and Project Updates

COVID-19 Vaccine Authorized and Recommended for Children Under 5

After successfully submitting data from their respective clinical trials, the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines have been authorized and recommended for Emergency Use (EUA) for our youngest population – 6 months through 4 years for Pfizer, and 6 months through 5 years for Moderna.

The CDC has updated their [COVID-19 Pediatric Planning Guide](#) which highlights important considerations in preparing to administer and distribute these vaccines.

CDC Rescinds Order Requiring Negative Pre-Departure COVID-19 Test Prior to Flight to the US

CDC has announced the order requiring persons to show a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding a flight to the United States, to be rescinded, effective June 12, 2022 at 12:01AM ET. This means that, air passengers will not need to get tested and show the COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 prior to boarding a flight to the U.S.

Health Equity Resources and News

NACCHO Applauds Passage of Safer Communities Act

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), on behalf of the nearly 3,000 local health departments across the country, applauds the passage of the Safer Communities Act, bipartisan legislation intended to reduce the threat of gun violence. The legislation passed both chambers of Congress last week, and President Biden signed the bill into law on Saturday. "The Safer Communities Act takes important steps toward reducing gun violence by investing in violence prevention programs, enacting common-sense rules to prevent individuals at risk of violence to themselves and others from possessing firearms, and expanding access to mental health services in communities and schools.

CDC Activates Emergency Operations Center for Monkeypox Response

CDC has begun shipping orthopoxvirus tests to five commercial laboratory companies, to quickly increase monkeypox testing capacity and access in every community.

Anyone with a rash that looks like monkeypox should talk to their healthcare provider, even if they don't think they had contact with someone who has monkeypox. If you are sick with monkeypox please isolate at home; if there is an active rash or other symptoms, then you should be in a separate room or area from other family members and pets when possible.

Take the following steps to prevent getting monkeypox:

- Avoid close, skin to skin contact with the monkeypox rash.
 - Do not touch the rash or scabs of person with monkeypox.
 - Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with someone with monkeypox.
 - Do not share eating utensils or cups.
- Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a sick person.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after contact with sick people.
- In Central and West Africa, avoid contact with animals that can spread monkeypox virus, usually rodents and primates. Also, avoid sick or dead animals, as well as bedding or other materials they have touched.

Webinars and Trainings

Topic: Empowering Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant community leaders to support COVID-19 vaccine confidence among their peers.

Hosted by NRC-RIM, IDEO.org and supported by NACCHO's Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health program.

Date: June 30, 2022 at 9 a.m. PT | 12 p.m. ET. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

Topic: Using NACCHO Research to Inform Local Public Health Programs and Policy

Date: July 6, 2022 at 2PM. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

Topic: Fostering COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence in Russian- and Ukrainian-Speaking Communities: A Training for Providers, Hosted by Dr. Gretchen LaSalle

Date: This activity was originally released on July 27, 2021 and is available for CE credit until July 26, 2023. This training is free of charge; however, registration is required. [Visit the Immunity Community website](#) to register for the e-course.

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.