

RIM Monthly Newsletter

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

March 2023

COVID-19 CDC Data Updates

US COVID-19 Data: Number of confirmed cases in the last 7 days: 139,991

[COVID-19 Data Tracker Weekly Review](#)

[US Monkeypox Data](#): Total confirmed Monkeypox/orthopoxviral cases: 30,286

Highlights of the Month

Site Spotlight: Bexar County Health Collaborative

“Solving Critical Community Health Needs”

That’s what Bexar County Health Collaborative strives to do every day. The Health Collaborative began informally in 1997 when the city’s major healthcare organizations agreed to put aside their competitive business practices to conduct a comprehensive health needs assessment. Since then, it has developed and grown into something truly inspirational. NACCHO had the opportunity to sit down with Jordan Mcilveen, Director of the COVID Response Team of Bexar County Health Collaborative, to learn more about their essential work.

“Through ongoing pop-up clinic work with NISD in 2022, we encountered a growing number of Afghan families coming for vaccines,” said Mcilveen. “Seeing this need, we teamed up with Razakaar, a Non-Profit Organization based in San Antonio, to launch a Mothers x Mothers conversation group- essentially health education in the home for a small group of Afghan mothers, with a focus on preparing for the COVID vaccine.”

After the first few convenings of the Mothers x Mothers group, they began to offer pop-up vaccine clinics in the apartment in which the convening was held.

After seeing the success of the Mothers to Mothers group, the Health Collaborative experimented with convening fathers as well. This group gave the fathers the opportunity to discuss the healthcare services they were utilizing. This also gave the Health Collaborative an idea of how to best serve these communities.

“A pressing issue these individuals face is the ability to attain successful and consistent access to medical care. The barriers to accessing healthcare are multifactorial for many Afghan families - there are financial and transportation limitations, cultural differences, and language constraints – among others,” said Mcilveen. These barriers make it incredibly hard for this community to get consistent health care. Because they don’t often have one healthcare provider, it’s hard to keep medical records organized. The Health Collaborative makes this one of their goals as they look up records beforehand to expedite the process. Another adaptation they made is scheduling appointments for their clinics to avoid having these families wait long periods of time to get the care they need.

Bexar County Health Collaborative has made and continues to make an invaluable difference in the lives of refugees, immigrants, and migrants in Bexar County. To learn more about their organization, [check out their website](#).



News and Announcements

NRC-RIM releases suite of materials ahead of Persian New Year

The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants (NRC-RIM) this week released materials that support healthy communities during Nowruz, or Persian New Year, which occurs this year on March 20. Nowruz is a very important holiday for many central Asian communities, including Afghan communities.

As the COVID-19 public health emergency comes to an end in May, Nowruz is an excellent opportunity for organizations to share essential health-related information and answer questions. By combining Nowruz activities and health education, organizations can play a vital role in promoting healthier communities and improving the overall well-being of their clients. For more information, read their [special edition newsletter](#), the [winter holidays webpage](#), and their [newest blog](#).

NRC-RIM also added more translations of their booklet highlighting the [most important information about COVID-19 for new arrivals](#) to the United States. Resources are now available in written and video format in Arabic, Burmese, Dari, English, French, Kinyarwanda, Nepali, Pashto, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Swahili (Congolese), Swahili (East African), and Tigrinya.

For more information, visit [their website](#), sign up for [their newsletter](#), and follow them on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

NRC-RIM and partners release Ramadan materials and re-open mini-grants

The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants (NRC-RIM) and their partners at the International Rescue Committee this week published updated materials that organizations can use during Ramadan, which began the evening of March 22.

The resources, available in English, Arabic, Dari, Pashto, Somali and Tigrinya, include a calendar template with space to add sehar and iftar times alongside public health messaging about COVID-19. Organizations and providers can also distribute a safety and wellness checklist, pre-translated text messages reminding people to get up to date on their vaccines, translated videos, social media assets and more.

NRC-RIM re-opened its Honest Conversations mini-grant applications to organizations that wish to use the campaign to promote health resources about COVID-19 and rebuild trust in immigrant and migrant communities. For more information, email nrcrim@umn.edu.

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

From the Field: Research, Policy, and Project Updates

COVID Emergency Declarations Are Ending. What Happens to Migrant & Immigrant Health and Health Access? | Migrant Clinicians Network

“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.

As of the writing of this article, an average of 458 people die each day in the United States of COVID-19. The daily death toll, although significantly lower than the peaks we saw earlier in the pandemic, is still startlingly high, and a loud reminder that, despite the expiration of the emergency declarations, COVID is not over. Here, we review the history and impact of the emergency declarations, and anticipated effects of their expiration on migrants and immigrants, and the clinicians who serve them.”

[Read more here.](#)

A curated selection of resources for Afghans and providers

This collection of fact sheets, posters, videos, audio recordings and other resources in English, Dari and Pashto supports the public health needs of Afghan new arrivals and the providers who serve them. These materials come from organizations across the country working to assist Afghan communities throughout every step of the resettlement process. To reduce duplication of efforts and to improve health messaging and outcomes, this list includes both existing materials and resources that are in progress.

NRC-RIM hosts this collection curated by an interagency health coordination working group that brings together multi-sectoral stakeholders to create a comprehensive response to Afghan new arrivals. These materials have not undergone a formal vetting process.

There are options to search and filter by topic, language and more. To submit a resource for consideration, email it to nrcrim@umn.edu.

Follow this link to check out these resources.

Unwinding and Returning to Regular Operations after COVID-19

The expiration of the continuous coverage requirement authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) presents the single largest health coverage transition event since the first open enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act. As a condition of receiving a temporary 6.2 percentage point Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase under the FFCRA, states have been required to maintain enrollment of nearly all Medicaid enrollees. When the continuous coverage requirement expires, states will have up to 12 months to return to normal eligibility and enrollment operations.

Additionally, many other temporary authorities adopted by states during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), including Section 1135 waivers and disaster relief state plan amendments (SPAs), will expire at the end of the PHE, and states will need to plan for a return to regular operations across their programs. CMS will continue to update this page as additional tools and resources are released.

Webinars and Trainings

How to Support Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant Communities Before and After the End of the Public Health Emergency

April 20, 2023

3:30 ET

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. Join this webinar where panelists from the Migrant Clinicians Network and the International Rescue Committee discuss how the end of the PHE is likely to impact RIM communities and steps to take before May 11 to support RIM community members.

By the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Answer questions from clients and community members about the anticipated impact of the end of the public health emergency on refugee, immigrant, and migrant (RIM) communities
- Advise clients and community members on steps they can take before the end of the PHE to access COVID-19 vaccines and tests
- Share translated resources on the end of the PHE with clients and community members

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



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.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.