

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

RIM Monthly Newsletter

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

May 31, 2022

COVID-19 CDC Data Updates

US COVID-19 data: CDC reports US COVID-19 data: 83.9M cases and 1M deaths; 659,822 new cases in last 7 days (data updated 5/31/2022)

US COVID-19 Vaccination data: 258.5M Population \geq 5 Years of Age fully vaccinated (data updated 5/31/2022)

Highlights of the Month

Bexar County's Community Health Leadership

Bexar County's Community Health Leadership is a non-profit in San Antonio, operating for over 20 years working closely to address RIM community needs. At the onset of the pandemic, Bexar shifted focus to COVID-19 response programs such as pop-up vaccination clinics to increase vaccine uptake. In partnership with NACCHO, Bexar Health facilitated a collective of eight Community Based Organizations (CBO) partners to serve RIM populations as trusted messengers by coordinating resources and hosting pop-up clinics in collaboration with clinical partners. Community partners such as ImmSchools, Presentation Ministry Center, Empower House, The Hope for International Community Development, Mexican American Unity Council, and American Organization for Immigrants have championed RIM focused COVID-19 programming, while Culturingua and Razakaar have also played a key role in supporting resettlement of Afghan refugees.

Jordan Mcilveen, the Community Information & Data Manager spoke on "leveraging existing relationships with CBOs as the foundation for the reconvening and reorganizing of the NACCHO supported vaccine drive". Bexar County's Community Health Leadership has made great strides in improving community acceptability of vaccines by striving to overcome language barriers to address gaps in translated material needs to fully capture non-English as a Second Language-(ESL) populations by distributing COVID-19 Safety Kits (including cards with local vaccine and testing, PPE and affordable health insurance information) in Arabic and Spanish. Read more about the organization [here](#).



NACCHO 2020 Forces of Change Report Highlights Impacts of COVID on Health Departments

NACCHO has released a report on its 2020 Forces of Change survey, which focused on the effects to local health department infrastructure caused by COVID-19. More than half of local health departments reported that their leaders and staff were targets of harassment in response to COVID-19 protection measures during the first year of the pandemic. The survey also found strained financial and staffing capacities hindered a robust response to COVID-19, forcing health departments to suspend public health services, and exacerbating already existing health inequities. The 2020 survey provides one of the only mid-pandemic pictures of the circumstances surrounding the local public health response to COVID-19. This report also includes an infographic that visualizes the survey results. Read the report [here](#).

News and Announcements

2022 North American Refugee Health Conference (NARHC)

This is an annual 3-day conference for healthcare and resettlement professionals working in refugee and immigrant health. The conference dates are June 22-25 with scholarships available to previously resettled refugees. [Learn more about the scholarships and apply](#). Registration is open for our in-person conference! (No virtual options available). [Book your ticket now](#).

2022 NACCHO360 Conference

Registration is open for 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. Each year, the NACCHO 360 conference empowers cross-pollination by bridging traditional public health practices and disciplines with health informatics, information technology, and surveillance. Take advantage of early- bird rates [registration rates here](#).

FDA Limits Use of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine to Certain Individuals

This week, the FDA has restricted the authorized use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to individuals 18 and older for whom other authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines are not accessible or clinically appropriate, or who elect to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine because they would otherwise not receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

FDA Updates Prescriber Guidance for "Paxlovid"

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) updated guidance for healthcare providers, [including a checklist](#) to help them decide when to prescribe "Paxlovid", the antiviral treatment for COVID-19. Guidance also included [a list of drugs](#) that could potentially negatively interact with the antiviral. Paxlovid was authorized for emergency use by FDA in December 2021 for patients at a high risk of developing severe COVID-19 but logistical challenges such as required doctors' visits or testing access have made it difficult for eligible patients to receive the medication within the recommended five-day window after symptom onset.

Resources for Afghan and Ukrainian New Arrivals

The United States government is resettling Afghan and Ukrainian nationals who have been displaced by the crisis in their home country.

On August 29, 2021, President Biden directed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to lead and coordinate ongoing efforts across the federal government to support vulnerable Afghans, including those who worked alongside us in Afghanistan for the past two decades, as they safely resettle in the United States. This effort is led by the DHS [“Operation Allies Welcome”](#).

As of May 21, 2022, the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (AUSAA) authorized the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to provide resettlement assistance and other benefits available for refugees to specific Ukrainian populations and other non-Ukrainian individuals in response to their displacement from Ukraine and entry into the United States

Additional resources below:

[Benefits for Afghan Humanitarian Parolees](#)

Afghan new arrivals may be eligible for cash assistance, medical assistance, employment preparation, job placement, English language training, and other services offered through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). They may also be eligible for federal “mainstream” (non-ORR funded) benefits, Assistance Program (SNAP). Read more about the benefits [here](#).

[DHS response to Ukrainian refugees through “Uniting for Ukraine” process](#)

Certain Ukrainian individuals, or non-Ukrainian individuals who last habitually resided in Ukraine, who are also referred to as Ukrainians, have been or will be granted humanitarian parole by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in response to Russia’s war on Ukraine. Ukrainian humanitarian parolees paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, are eligible to apply for mainstream benefits, resettlement assistance, and other benefits available to refugees (apart from the initial resettlement program customarily referred to as Department of State’s Reception and Placement program), until the end of their parole term. You can read more about the federal “mainstream” (non-ORR funded) benefits [here](#).

[Ukrainian Refugee Domestic Screening Guidance: Key Considerations and Best Practices](#)

The domestic medical screening guidance is for state public health departments and health-care providers in the United States who conduct the initial medical screening for refugees. These screenings usually occur 30-90 days after the refugee arrives in the United States.

Ukrainian newcomers aged 18 years and younger may be eligible for vaccines at no cost provided through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Questions about vaccines available for Ukrainians should be referred to your local/state immunization program. Find more information below:

- [VFC: Vaccines for Children Program | CDC](#)
- [State Health Department Immunization Websites, Coordinators, and Mandates \(immunize.org\)](#)

LHD HIV, STI, and Hepatitis Programs Respond and Adapt to COVID-19

Many HIV, STI, and hepatitis programs have reduced or suspended services and activities in response to COVID-19, often because staff are pulled away to focus on the response or to implement social distancing guidelines. Outreach, education, and prevention efforts have been hit the hardest, with many LHDs reporting that these efforts have been suspended and several noting that they are no longer starting clients on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). To support LHD HSH programs as they respond and adapt to COVID-19, NACCHO is collecting information on the impact of COVID-19 on their programs and communities. To share your LHD's experience, please complete please contact Kat Kelley (kkelley@naccho.org) or we encourage you to complete the [query](#), by 11:59 PM PT on Friday, June 10th.

Request for Proposals: Workforce Assessment of Local Health Department Staff Capacity Related to Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Response

With support from CDC, NACCHO will award up to \$60,000 for a consultant, or consulting firm, to assist NACCHO with conducting a workforce assessment to evaluate LHD staff capacity related to healthcare-associated infections (HAI) and antimicrobial resistance (AR). The selected consultant will create assessment tools, conduct data collection and analysis, and develop a final report with results. Proposal Due Date and Time is Tuesday, May 31, 2022, by 5:00 PM ET; Selection Announcement date is June 13, 2022. Maximum Funding Amount is \$60,000

The project period will begin upon contract execution (goal of July 1, 2022) and will end July 31, 2022. Contingent on CDC approving a no cost extension, the project will continue (with a contract modification) to end no later than October 31, 2022. Contact infectiousdiseases@naccho.org for more information. Click [here](#) for details.

Request for Proposals: Evaluating Essential Skills and Workforce Training Needs for Local Health Department Staff Engaged in Infection Prevention and Control Activities

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is the voice of the nearly 3,000 local health departments (LHDs) across the country. These cities, county, metropolitan, and district health departments work to protect and improve the health of all people and all communities. NACCHO provides capacity-building resources to LHDs (e.g., trainings, webinars, access to subject matter experts, peer discussion) that support the development and implementation of public health policies and practices. Proposal Due Date and Time is Monday May 23, 2022 by 5:00 PM ET; Selection Announcement Date is May 30, 2022. Maximum Funding Amount is \$100,000.

The project period will begin upon contract execution (goal of June 15, 2022) and will end July 31, 2022. Contingent on CDC approving a no cost extension, the project may continue (with a contract modification) to end no later than September 30, 2022. Contact infectiousdiseases@naccho.org for more information. Click [here](#) for details.

Webinars and Trainings

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.