

RIM Monthly Newsletter

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

May

COVID-19 CDC Data Updates

US COVID-19 data: Number of hospitalizations in the last 7 days: 8,256

US Mpox Data: Total confirmed Mpox/Orthopoxviral cases: 30,422

Highlights of the Month

Site Spotlight: Canal Alliance

“Everyone has the right to achieve their dreams, with the right tools and the right support- we want to be able to provide that puzzle piece that’s missing between the underserved and the services that exist,” said Laura Jiménez-Diecks, Senior Manager of Health Services at Canal Alliance. Canal Alliance is described as a nonprofit champion of immigrants who are challenged by a lack of resources and an unfamiliar environment that aims to break the generational cycle of poverty in these communities. The Canal is a primarily Latino immigrant community. “80% of our staff speak Spanish, and not only that, but that same percentage is not only bilingual but also bicultural, so that positions us very well to be able to meet the clients where they are,” said Jiménez-Diecks. Having staff that understands the language and cultural barriers that Latino immigrants face in the Canal is what makes the Alliance so successful in catering to the needs of their community.

COVID had a worldwide impact on everyone, and Canal Alliance is no exception. Canal Alliance hired what they call community health workers from within the Canal community to be trusted messengers between the organization and the community that they serve. These messengers are Latino and members of the Canal community. Jiménez-Diecks described these community health workers as “natural leaders who have this desire to bring equity and provide information and better the lives of their fellow neighbors and family.” They “are there to educate and create sustainable systems of equitable recovery after the pandemic.”

Canal Alliance has also initiated community planning focus groups in response to the pandemic. The goal of this group is to understand how they can best serve the community and keep them engaged. They also started a mental health group for families due to the increase of mental health issues brought on by the pandemic.

Jiménez-Diecks attributes the success of their organization to the trust they have built with their community as well as the influence of the community health workers. The relationships Canal Alliance has built with their community members is one that will continue well into the future.



News and Announcements

Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention of Tuberculosis Among People Experiencing Homelessness in the United States: Current Recommendations

Given recent migration challenges around busing migrants and the use of shelters, we wanted to elevate a document that might be useful to partners. The CDC has published an article in Public Health Reports that provides a comprehensive summary of the most recent guidelines and recommendations from the CDC and other US organizations over the past 30 years, pertaining specifically to the care of People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) who are either suffering from tuberculosis (TB) disease or latent TB infection (LTBI). [Read about it here.](#)

HRSA Resources to Help Navigate Challenges from the End of the PHE

As we continue to navigate the challenges from the end of the PHE, here are a few resources from The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) we have shared to our sites and maybe useful to partners:

[Fact Sheet to U.S. Governors from HHS Secretary Becerra on the end of the PHE](#)

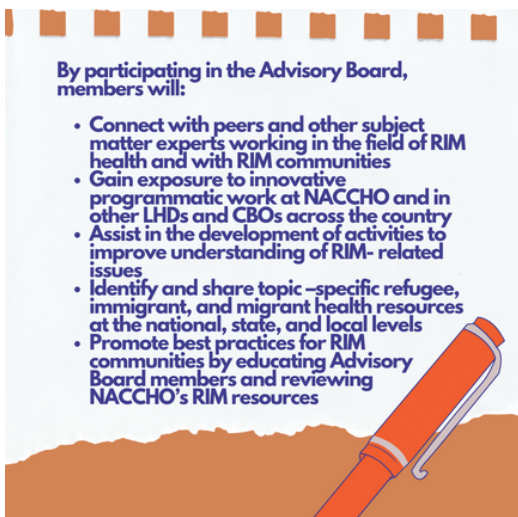
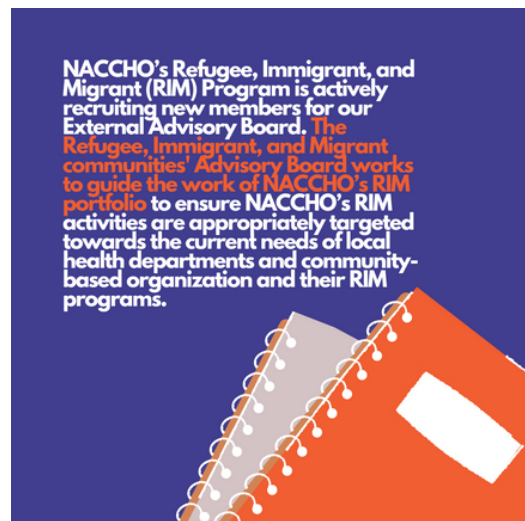
[HHS COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Homepage](#)

[HHS Fact Sheet: End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.](#)

[CMS Informational Bulletin: End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(PHE\) and the COVID-19 National Emergency and Implications for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIPs\).](#)

[CDC's End of the PHE Webpage](#)

Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant Programs Advisory Board Application



NRC-RIM releases additional translated resources for the end of the Public Health Emergency

As the Public Health Emergency (PHE) expired on May 11, the National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants (NRC-RIM) continued to see high interest in its PHE materials. This week, they re-shared their webinar on the topic featuring panelists from the International Rescue Committee and Migrant Clinicians Network, which has been updated to include subtitles in Spanish. NRC-RIM also re-shared their Spanish-language conversation guide. These translations came as a direct response to requests from organizations, community health workers, and the general public.

NRC-RIM welcomed more than 300 people for a webinar, held in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health, that highlighted strategies for communicating public health risks to refugee, immigrant and migrant communities. The recording and slides are available online.

NRC-RIM also updated its promising practice on pop-up vaccine events to highlight the successes of the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) in New York state, which partnered with an Afghan bakery to administer more than 200 vaccines.

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

NRC-RIM sees more traction with resources for Afghans, Ukrainians and other RIM communities

The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants (NRC-RIM) and partners at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) published a new resource that communicates parolee health requirements, including vaccines and tuberculosis screening, to Ukrainian newcomers. Translations are available in English, Ukrainian and Russian.

NRC-RIM continues to promote its collection of resources, also created in collaboration with IRC, on supporting communities before and after the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). Switchboard promoted these resources and more in their blog on the same topic. Video versions of social media assets are now available in Dari, Pashto and Rohingya. NRC-RIM is also running an advertising campaign on social media in Arabic, Dari, French, Kinyarwanda, Nepali, Pashto, Spanish, Swahili (Congolese), and Ukrainian.

Registration is open for next week's webinar, hosted in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health, that will highlight strategies for communicating public health risks to refugee, immigrant and migrant communities.

Health Collaborative, an initiative run by Bexar County in Texas, began a Fathers x Fathers health discussion group to give Afghan men a space to discuss their concerns, improve health literacy, and form a community of parents while adjusting to life in a new country. The Fathers x Fathers program is an adaptation of NRC-RIM's Mothers x Mothers campaign, which allows organizations to customize a health curriculum that pertains to their community's concerns.

It is not too late to take a survey about culturally and linguistically appropriate health communications for a chance to win a \$50 gift card. Responses to the survey, which are due May 5, support NRC-RIM's efforts to evaluate its health communications portfolio.

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

Virtual Communities Info

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.