

RIM Monthly Newsletter

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

September 29, 2022

COVID-19 CDC Data Updates

US COVID-19 data: Number of Confirmed Cases in the past 7 days: 352,781 and 442 new deaths (data updated 09/29/2022)

US Monkey Pox data: Total confirmed monkeypox/orthopoxviral cases: 25,509 (data updated 9/28/2022)

Highlights of the Month

Public Health- Dayton and Montgomery County- Dayton, OH

Dayton and Montgomery County focus on cultural competency and the idea of meeting people where they are. The mission of the organization is simple: “to improve the quality of life in our community by achieving the goals of public health: prevention, promotion and protection.”

Understanding and respecting the populations they serve is incredibly important to their work. Their materials are available in several languages- from Spanish to Swahili.

This organization has created 10 sessions dedicated to COVID contact tracing in RIM communities. They’ve also introduced 50 new vaccine clinics in areas with a high RIM population. They’ve created a COVID-19 hotline specifically for RIM communities and initiated a health assessment questionnaire that reached around 150 people.

Terra Williams, Director of Health Promotion at Public Health- Dayton and Montgomery County, is a trailblazer in public health. They partnered with Ebenezer Healthcare Access (EHA) to “address social determinants of health by overcoming language and cultural barriers.”

Together, they have created several presentations and COVID-19 materials to educate and support the RIM community they serve. Their relationship with Ebenezer Healthcare Access was something Williams noted several times. “Though Ebenezer Healthcare Access started out as a care coordination and we’ve been using them for multi-language to help the community health workers be able to provide a holistic care to our RIM communities,” said Williams.

The partnership between Dayton and Montgomery County and Ebenezer Healthcare Access is one that has brought a lot of resources to the RIM population of this community. With NACCHO funding, they will continue to grow their program to reach even more communities in need of new resources and support. Whereas COVID-19 put a wedge in the work of millions of people, Williams said that it has strengthened their organization. The pandemic emphasized the need for collaboration with local health departments and other organizations. Collective work leads to collective action.

News and Announcements

Request for Applications: Equipping Local Health Departments to Address Vaccine Hesitancy

With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NACCHO is pleased to announce [a funding opportunity](#), Equipping Local Health Departments to Address Vaccine Hesitancy, a technical assistance and capacity-building opportunity that will provide LHDs with resources to address vaccine hesitancy across the lifespan for routine, influenza, COVID-19, and other vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs). Selected LHDs will receive training, technical assistance, and other resources to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation, build partnerships with other local organizations, and identify areas of need to improve vaccine confidence and uptake. Through this funding opportunity, NACCHO will select up to three (3) LHDs to serve as host sites and receive \$100,000 to support the vaccine hesitancy project activities. For full details and instructions, please review the [Request for Applications](#). Applications must be submitted through the [online application](#) no later than Monday, October 24th, 2022, 11:59 pm PT. Questions about the RFA and application process can be directed towards NACCHO's Immunization Program at immunization@naccho.org.

From the Field: Research, Policy, and Project Updates

Practical Considerations for Involving Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants in Creating Public Health Messaging Toolkit

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical need for linguistically accessible and culturally appropriate health information to reduce health disparities and contribute to equitable health outcomes. The NRC-RIM with support from IRC have developed a toolkit: "Developing Culturally Responsive and Linguistically Accurate Materials". [Read more here.](#)

Apply to Get a Custom AI Chatbot to Fight COVID-19 Misinformation

Johns Hopkins University is seeking to partner with 25 health departments to launch an AI chatbot to counter COVID-19 vaccine misinformation in your state, city, or county, at no cost to health departments. Departments serving over 500,000 constituents can apply to the VIRA X NACCHO competition to access a VIRA Local, a fully custom version of VIRA for free. This includes access to all VIRA's expert-vetted database responses as well as social messaging insights for districts and customized answers specific to jurisdictions. Applications due September 15. [Learn more about the opportunity here.](#)

Translated flu season resources available from NRC-RIM

The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants (NRC-RIM) re-released its translated health education materials that cover the flu messaging and the impact of the flu during the pandemic. Resources, available in 22 high-priority languages, include [fact sheets](#), [social media assets](#), and [a conversation guide](#).

NRC-RIM added new translations this week to [Healthy Spaces](#), a toolkit that guides organizations in setting up physical spaces to honor people in RIM communities and support the trusted relationships that are needed to have conversations about health topics. Resources are available in French, Pashto, Spanish and Vietnamese.

On Sept. 14, NRC-RIM joined their partners at the International Rescue Committee to share best practices around translation and cultural validation of health education materials. The slides, recording, and a list of relevant resources are available [on the NRC-RIM website](#).

NRC-RIM also presented in person with colleagues from Voices for Vaccine at the 15th National Conference for Immunization Coalitions and Partnerships ([NCICP](#)). Slides and a list of resources are available [online](#).

Partnering with Youth Networks to Provide COVID-19 Prevention Information to Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant Communities

National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants (NRC-RIM) [supports state and local health departments](#) and other entities in their work to reach and engage with disproportionately impacted refugee, immigrant and migrant (RIM) communities. This past year, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Asian Media Access (AMA) partnered to pilot a three-month COVID-19 prevention project in the Somali and Hmong youth community. The objective of the project was to empower youth with digital communication skills to produce communication messaging in their heritage languages and increase uptake of vaccination in African and Asian immigrant communities. The materials developed by youth in the pilot program were shared out via social media and reached more than 2,000 people from their respective communities.”

Healthy Spaces Toolkit

NRC-RIM has created a toolkit to provide safe and supportive physical spaces for RIM community members. According to the toolkit, “one way to change systems is to ensure spaces are set up to honor people in RIM communities and support the trusted relationships that are needed to have conversations about healthcare that ultimately lead to behavior change.” Trust begins as soon as someone walks through the door, so having a safe physical space to belong to is necessary. COVID-19 has taken a toll on the mental and physical health of RIM communities- a safe space is imperative. For more information regarding the toolkit, click [here](#).

Health Equity Resources and News

Call for Abstracts: 2023 Preparedness Summit

The abstract submission period for the 2023 Preparedness Summit on April 24–27, 2023 in Atlanta is officially open! The theme for our next Preparedness Summit, Recover. Renew: Reprioritizing All-Hazards Preparedness, will provide an opportunity to revisit pressing issues in preparedness and share resources, shape policies, and build skills to mitigate a variety of threats.

As the first and longest running national preparedness conference, the Preparedness Summit is the place for you to reenergize while gaining the knowledge, resources, and relationships necessary to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies. Don't miss your chance to join more than 1,900 attendees—who work in all levels of the government; federal, state, and local), emergency management, volunteer organizations, healthcare coalitions, and academia—to share best practices, build partnerships, advance your skillset, and take away innovative solutions and practical strategies to address the vulnerabilities in our country's health security system.

The abstract submission period is open through October 24, 2022 (11:59 PM PT). [Learn more about this year's abstract submission categories, preview the application, and submit your abstract!](#)

[Subscribe to the Preparedness Summit e-newsletter](#) to get the latest news on the 2023 Preparedness Summit.

CDC Opening Applications for Monkeypox Vaccine Equity Pilot Program

Local, state, and territorial health departments, as well as tribal governments and local non-governmental organizations, can partner together and begin submitting requests to access monkeypox vaccine through the recently announced Monkeypox Vaccine Equity Pilot Program. This new pilot program is intended to reach populations that may face barriers to monkeypox vaccination, which may include differences in language, location of vaccination sites, vaccine hesitancy, mistrust of government, lack of access to on-line scheduling technology, accessibility/disability issues, immigration status, and stigma.

Two Cases of Monkeypox-Associated Encephalomyelitis- Colorado and the District of Columbia, July-August 2022

Two U.S. cases of encephalomyelitis associated with acute MPXV infection were identified during summer 2022. Whether the underlying pathophysiology resulted from direct viral neuro-invasion, or a para-infectious autoimmune process is currently unknown.

Webinars and Trainings

NACCHO Webinar

NACCHO will host an optional informational webinar on Equipping Local Health Departments to Address Vaccine Hesitancy

Date: October 6, 2022 // Time: 1:00 pm ET. [Register here.](#)

[Lessons Learned During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Key Takeaways for Future Infectious Disease Outbreaks: CHERN Learning Series](#)

Join The Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) for a four-part learning series designed for clinicians, clinical supervisors, and other clinical staff. The series will cover four unique COVID-19 topics. Please note that the agenda is subject to change.

Date: September 28, October 19// Time: 4:00 pm PT. [Register 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.