

# RIM Monthly Newsletter

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

**October 27, 2022**

## Highlights of the Month

### Site Spotlight: San Ysidro Health

San Ysidro Health is a non-profit organization committed to improving the health and well-being of the communities they serve with access for all. They focus on providing high-quality, compassionate, accessible, and affordable healthcare and support services for patients of all ages. NACCHO had the opportunity to sit down with Bisma Coda, Project Manager for the Health and Promotion Department, to learn a little bit more about their work with refugee, immigrant, and migrant communities. San Ysidro's network expands across San Diego County, California and they serve around 600 districts in this area.

"The East Region Refugee Community COVID Prevention Project is designed to increase education access, acceptance of COVID-19 testing and vaccination among refugees residing in San Diego County in the East Region," said Coda. Although they already have a grasp on how to deal with COVID and COVID fatigue, their goal is to reach more refugees and immigrants in San Diego communities. Another goal of San Ysidro is to provide community education to reduce the COVID-19 infection rates and increase access to reliable resources. Vaccine hesitancy encompasses more than just COVID- they also strive to provide education surrounding other vaccines, like the flu vaccine for example.

Coda also mentioned that their community health workers act as trusted messengers from within the communities they serve. "They are uniquely connected with the patients due to their shared life experiences," said Coda. These community health workers serve as a liaison to both the community and within the internal team at San Ysidro.

Coda mentioned using several different outlets to implement health literacy interventions. Some outlets include social media, radio, and livestream. "We livestreamed every workshop we did. That way not only our community in town, but also people around the country and overseas, were watching our workshops," said Coda.

Coda explained that San Ysidro Health brought in other agencies, such as the county of San Diego, the school district, and local hospitals. By "bringing all of these community organizations, we helped them to bridge the community to the RIM population," said Coda.

So, what's the key to success according to Coda? "Empower their knowledge and provide the best resources." That is what makes a successful organization. To learn more about San Ysidro Health, check out their website [here](#).



## News and Announcements

### **Enhancing Local Health Capacity to Serve Afghan Refugee, Immigrant, Migrant Communities Consultant**

In partnership with the University of Minnesota National Resource Center for Refugee, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM), NACCHO is pleased to offer a funding opportunity to a consultant to provide training and technical assistance to build capacity of LHDs and CBOs to effectively collaborate with Afghan refugee, immigrant, and migrant communities for improved Afghan community public health.

NACCHO will award up to \$75,000 to a consultant or firm to support funded LHDs and CBOs to conduct resource and network mapping, community, and partner engagement, and develop a subsequent implementation plan to expand, tailor and adapt their services and resources to effectively reach current and future Afghan populations in their communities. As well as to identify successes, challenges, and lessons learned in these mapping and planning processes and disseminate to other jurisdictions.

For more information, check out the Request for Proposals [here](#).

## CDC Briefing on Fall & Winter Virus Season

Please join CDC Director Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH for a live webinar during which we will provide updates on the fall and winter virus season landscape. This will include a sneak peek at CDC's new communications efforts to address the spread of flu, COVID-19, and RSV and resources that will be available for partners. This briefing is intended to inform federal agencies, state and local health departments, medical societies, private sector and nonprofit organizations, and members of the media.

CDC and public health agencies across the country are preparing for the expected increase of respiratory illnesses like flu, COVID-19, and RSV this fall and winter virus season by educating Americans about what they can do to protect themselves, including getting vaccinated, and if they get sick, getting tested and treated.

WHAT: Fall and Winter Virus Season Briefing and Discussion

WHEN: Wednesday, October 4, 12:00-1:30PM EDT

WHERE: Register [here](#)

CDC is happy to take questions in advance. Please email any initial questions for discussion during the briefing to: [cdcdirectorbriefing@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcdirectorbriefing@cdc.gov) by Friday, September 29.

REGISTER NOW:

[https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_UQH0YffvQsSj1iVSO5F7NA](https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_UQH0YffvQsSj1iVSO5F7NA)

## Health Equity Resources and News

### New Webinar and Promising Practices Highlight Partnerships Ideas in Afghan and Muslim Communities

The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants (NRC-RIM) is joining the Afghan Health Initiative (AHI) and Seattle King County Public Health (SKCPH) for a webinar titled [Culturally Relevant Lead Poisoning Prevention Strategies for Afghan Newcomer Communities](#) on Oct. 18.

The webinar will highlight AHI and SKCPH's partnership to prevent childhood lead poisoning in Afghan communities through a [home visit and pressure cooker exchange program](#), as well as NRC-RIMs [lead poisoning collection](#) for Afghans. Participants will learn about how to replicate the home visit program and support it with tailored health communications from NRC-RIM.

Learn from more partnership ideas in NRC-RIM's new promising practice called [Effective Strategies for COVID-19 Mitigation in Muslim Faith Communities](#). Lessons learned from NRC-RIM partner the International Rescue Committee are summarized in five key strategies that support culturally responsive and effective mitigation strategies.

NRC-RIM partners at NACCHO are looking for a consultant to provide training and technical assistance to build capacity of health departments and community-based organizations to effectively collaborate with Afghan refugee, immigrant, and migrant communities for improved Afghan community public health. [Applications are due Oct. 13](#). For more information, visit [their website](#), sign up for [their newsletter](#), and follow them on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

### **NRC-RIM's Translated COVID-19 Resources Prove Useful in Light of New Vaccines**

In light of the FDA and CDC's authorization of new COVID-19 vaccines, organizations may find existing NRC-RIM materials on [boosters](#), [waves](#), [variants](#), and other [general COVID-19 vaccine information](#) useful. Customizable and translated into more than 40 languages, these are among their most popular resources to date.

In collaboration with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), NRC-RIM released [Know Your Rights](#) fact sheets in English, Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole. Aimed at Cubans, Haitians, and others from Latin America who are humanitarian parole recipients, the fact sheet explains eligibility for healthcare services, translation and interpretation, privacy concerns and more.

NRC-RIM is working on several other health education collections for their [Afghan Health Portfolio](#), including wildfire smoke, mental health and stress, and respiratory illnesses. These will be released over the next several weeks.

Learn more about NRC-RIM's work at two upcoming virtual events:

- [Sept. 21: Culturally Driven Strategies: Tailoring Health Communications to Build Understanding and Trust](#), hosted by the Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC)
- [Sept. 22: Refugee Migration through the Generations](#), hosted by the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health Initiative at the University of California San Francisco

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

## Upcoming Testing & Vaccination Events

### COVID-19 Community Testing

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) works in partnership with communities to provide safe and free on-site COVID-19 testing in areas with outbreaks, increasing cases, or other barriers to access existing test sites.

- [COVID-19 Testing](#)
- How Minnesotans can get a COVID-19 test
- Walk in or schedule an appointment for a test at free community testing sites across Minnesota.
- [COVID-19 Community Testing Sites](#)
- Order a test through the state's free at-home rapid COVID-19 testing program.
- [Order your free at-home rapid tests](#)

Testing Events:

#### African Immigrants Community Services (AICS)

- Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 1433 East Franklin Avenue, Unit 13B, Minneapolis
- Saliva tests available
- Pre-registration steps:
- Go to [shieldt3portal.pointnclick.com](https://shieldt3portal.pointnclick.com)
- Click "Sign Up for Account"
- Input Agency Code: MDHCT
- Input all information, check "I Agree" to give consent, then click "Submit."
- Input registration code that was sent via text and email.
- For assistance or questions, please call 612-443-8806 or 612-443-8941.

#### Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization

- Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 3333 West Division Street, Suite 122A, St. Cloud
- Saliva tests available
- Appointments and walk-in appointments available
- For more information, call 320-281-3232

#### Hmong American Partnership

- Wednesdays, September 13, 20 and 27
- 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- 1075 Arcade Street, St. Paul
- [HAP September Testing Events.png](#)

## Phyllis Wheatley Community Center (PWCC)

- Mondays: 2 - 5 p.m.
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 3 - 7 p.m.
- 1301 North 10th Avenue, Minneapolis
- Saliva and rapid tests available
- Pre-registration steps:
- Go to [shieldt3portal.pointnclick.com](https://shieldt3portal.pointnclick.com)
- Click "Sign Up for Account"
- Input Agency Code: MDHCT
- Input all information, check "I Agree" to give consent, then click "Submit."
- Input registration code that was sent via text and email.
- Proceed to check-in area once you arrive at PWCC

## Somali Community Resettlement Services

- Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Gale Mansion Event Center
- 2115 Stevens Ave, Minneapolis
- PCR and rapid tests available

## COVID-19 Community Vaccines

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) works in partnership with communities to provide safe and free on-site COVID-19 vaccines.

COVID-19 vaccines continue to be very good at preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death. Make sure you and your family are up to date on any COVID-19 vaccine doses you are recommended to get to have the best protection against COVID-19.

- How to get a vaccine
- Check for vaccine appointments using [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) (you can search for appointments by vaccine type: Pfizer vaccine, Moderna vaccine, Novavax vaccine)
- [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), [Find a COVID-19 vaccine near you](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- Contact your primary health care provider or a local pharmacy.
- To locate a community vaccination event near you, call the MDH COVID-19 public hotline at 1-833-431-2053 Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday, Thursday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Culturally Relevant Lead Poisoning Prevention Strategies for Afghan Newcomer Communities

**October 18, 2023**

**1 pm ET**

A staggering 800 million children worldwide—nearly 1 in 3—are affected by lead poisoning. Refugee children, including Afghan children resettled in the United States, are disproportionately affected by lead exposures before they move to the U.S. This disproportionate impact continues even after resettlement because families may use imported products containing lead, such as cookware, cosmetics, and spices.

Seattle and King County Public Health (SKCPH) has been partnering with the Afghan Health Initiative (AHI) to prevent childhood lead poisoning in King County, Washington. Their efforts include home visits and a pressure cooker exchange program. AHI's community health advocates, trained to navigate linguistic and cultural issues, play a crucial role supporting home health visits.

The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM) simultaneously created a collection of pre-translated and customizable communications materials for organizations and individuals working to prevent and address lead exposure and poisoning among Afghan newcomers. They are based on guidance from the CDC and state health departments, and they include Afghan cultural references for a tailored approach.

Join this webinar to learn more about how your organization can replicate SKCPH and AHI's home visit program and support it with tailored health communications from NRC-RIM.

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

- Identify the main sources of lead exposure for Afghan newcomers to the United States
- Name three key strategies for designing culturally appropriate public health interventions for lead poisoning in Afghan newcomer communities
- Support Lead Poisoning prevention and treatment initiatives with culturally and linguistically relevant health communications from NRC-RIM



## Virtual Communities Info

### How to Sign Up for Virtual Communities (VC)

- Email [membership@naccho.org](mailto:membership@naccho.org) requesting an account
- Once membership has created you an account, email [RIM@naccho.org](mailto: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.*