



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MA RESPONDS NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING 2014



Enhancing Community Resiliency through Partnership and Preparedness May 21, 2014

Massachusetts Medical Society
Waltham, MA

This year's annual preparedness educational program will provide attendees with knowledge and strategies that will enable them to improve their communities' ability to respond to and recover from a public health emergency or disaster. Enhancing a community's ability to respond is dependent upon access to accurate information and successful collaboration with government agencies as well as private sector partners. Pre-planning, open communication with emergency management, and the use of technology all have a significant impact on a community's response capability.

The program will be held at Massachusetts Medical Society headquarters in Waltham from 6:00PM to 9:00PM and is free for MA Responds and MRC volunteers. A distance learning option is available for those unable to attend in person. Continuing education credit is available for physicians, nurses, and EMT/paramedics. There will also be a HAM amateur radio exhibit and demonstration during the registration period. To register, please visit www.massmed.org/MRC2014 For more information, please contact [Vanessa Kenealy](#).

MA Responds Administrator Training

There will be a MA Responds Administrator Training on Thursday May 1, 2014 from 9:30 AM until 3:00 PM at the Massachusetts Medical Society in Waltham, MA. If you are interested in participating, please contact [Liza Martin](#) to register. Space is limited.

Preparedness Posters Presented at the 2014 National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Preparedness Summit

Working with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, the Massachusetts Medical Society submitted two abstracts that were accepted as posters for the 2014 NACCHO Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, GA.

[*Enhancing Readiness and Resiliency through Collaborative Preparedness Education*](#) depicts the development of the annual preparedness educational program, its evolution to expand the number and type of preparedness partners who collaborate on the event, and the increased use of social media for program promotion and feedback.

[*Harnessing Partnership and Social Media to Develop and Promote a Statewide Preparedness Month Campaign*](#) examines last September's DPH Preparedness Month campaign, *Together We're Ready*, and how harnessing existing relationships and social media platforms can enhance community preparedness and response capability.

National Volunteer Month

April is National Volunteer Month and National Volunteer Week is April 6-12. This month presents an opportunity to recognize individuals and organizations like the Medical Reserve Corps and MA Responds who accomplish extraordinary things through service. To learn more about volunteer recognition and events, please visit: <http://www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week>.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses 18th Annual Conference

May 1, 2014
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Woburn, MA

Registration is now open for the MAPHN annual conference: *Excellence in Nursing Practice: Communicable/Infectious, Disease Preparedness and Response*. Attendees are also invited to register for the *Leadership Program and Awards Ceremony* the night before on April 30th. Program and registration information is available at www.maphn.org.

2014 National Homeland Security Conference

May 20-22, 2014
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The National Homeland Security Association sponsors the National Homeland Security Conference, which is the annual meeting of local homeland security and emergency management professionals from the nation's largest metropolitan areas. This conference focuses on all emergency response disciplines at all levels of government. For more information about the conference or to register, visit: <http://nationaluasi.com/dru/>.

The 19th Annual Adult Immunization Conference

May 20, 2014
DCU Center
Worcester, MA

The year's program includes MA Department of Public Health Commissioner Cheryl Bartlett, Dr. Alfred DeMaria, Jr., Dr. Susan Lett, and other public health experts speaking about progress made and challenges in improving adult immunization rates in Massachusetts. Attendees can attend the keynote address and plenary sessions, join a Q&A session, choose from two series of concurrent workshops, network with colleagues, view exhibits and posters, and earn continuing education credit. Visit <http://maic.jsi.com/events/> to register.

NACCHO 2014 Annual Conference

July 8-10, 2014
Hilton Atlanta
Atlanta, GA

This year's conference theme is The New Era of Public Health: Science, Innovation, and Policy. The practice of public health is clearly entering a new era refocusing traditional roles and core functions in ways that are dynamic and, in some cases, not previously imagined. How will the core functions, fundamental to public health practice, look in this new era? With the core functions as a framework, this year's meeting will explore the impact of scientific research, innovative practice and policy implementation and development in the new era on assessment, policy and assurance through plenary sessions, sharing sessions and workshops. Please visit www.nacchoannual.org, for more information on the meeting and registration.

MA Responds Orientation Course

On-Line Training Module

This course provides an overview on how to prepare for and respond to a public health emergency or other event. It is intended to complement additional training volunteers will receive through face to face meetings with their local MRC unit or other volunteer group, other courses recommended by volunteer coordinators and “just-in-time” training provided on-site. Modules include: Public Health Preparedness, Incident Command System, Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication, Personal Preparedness, Activation, Safety and Security, Individuals Requiring Additional Assistance and Behavioral Health. The course can be accessed at www.massmed.org/cme/maresponds or by logging onto your MA Responds account. Click on administration/training and then scroll down to “MA Responds orientation course.”

PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND RESOURCES

Boston Marathon Anniversary Support Resources

The first anniversary of the 2013 Boston Marathon tragedy may bring up many different emotions for survivors, loved ones of victims, and those who witnessed the event. While some of these emotions may be positive, it is very normal and expected to experience feelings of distress about the event. Often, the first anniversary of a disaster is the hardest because there are so many unknowns regarding how to mark the event and what you will feel. The Boston Public Health Commission has compiled several resources that contain information about how to cope with stress, loss and grief during this time. Also posted is a Resource and Recovery Guide, with information on mental health and community services available to marathon survivors and their families. Visit the BPHC’s page, [One Year Later](#), to access the resources.

A Special Report: *It Takes a Team*

The 2013 Boston Marathon: Preparing for and Recovering From a Mass-Casualty Event

Due to the heroic actions of first responders and emergency and trauma personnel, not a single one of the nearly 200 people hospitalized after the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings died, despite many grave injuries. *It Takes a Team* explains how multidisciplinary health care teams prepared for a mass-casualty event, responded to it, and helped survivors rebuild their lives afterward. The lessons learned and best practices revealed are universally applicable for any clinician or administrator in the emergency-preparedness/response and rehabilitation fields. The report is available for download at: <http://sites.jbjs.org/ittakesateam/2014/>.

Institute of Medicine Report: *Preparedness, Response and Recovery Considerations for Children and Families*

Current state and local disaster preparedness plans often do not include specific considerations for children and families. On June 11-12, 2013, the IOM Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events held a workshop to discuss disaster preparedness, response, and recovery relative to the needs of children and families. The document summarizes best practices from the workshop and is available at: <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2013/Preparedness-Response-and-Recovery-Considerations-for-Children-and-Families.aspx>.

SAHMSA Disaster APP

The SAMHSA Disaster App makes it easy to provide quality support to survivors. Users can navigate pre-deployment preparation, on-the-ground assistance, post-deployment resources, and more—at the touch of a button from the home screen.

Users also can share resources, like tips for helping survivors cope, and find local behavioral health services. And, self-care support for responders is available at all stages of deployment. To download the APP, [click here](#).

Immunization Action Coalition's laminated versions of the 2014 U.S. child/teen immunization schedule and the 2014 U.S. adult immunization schedule

IAC's laminated versions of the 2014 U.S. child/teen immunization schedule and the 2014 U.S. adult immunization schedule are covered with a tough, washable coating; they will stand up to a year's worth of use in every area of your healthcare setting where immunizations are given. The child and adolescent schedule has eight pages and is folded to measure 8.5" x 11". The adult immunization schedule has six pages and is folded to measure 8.5" x 11". Order a supply for your healthcare setting today!

[Child and Adolescent Laminated Immunization Schedules \(0–18 years\)](#)
[Adult Laminated Immunization Schedules](#)

**Contact Us
MA RESPONDS**

www.maresponds.org

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