MA RESPONDS Ready·Set·Respond

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2012

MA RESPONDS NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORI System Changes

On August 6, 2010, Governor Deval Patrick signed into law Chapter 256 of the Acts of 2010, commonly known as CORI Reform, making significant changes to the CORI law. Most of the new provisions went into effect on May 4, 2012, when the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS) launched a new secure, web-based service called "iCORI" replacing the existing CORI system. One of the iCORI changes carefully considered by MDPH is the new DCJIS requirement to collect the last six digits of a volunteer's Social Security Number (SSN). Where in the past the SSN was an optional field on the CORI Request Form and not collected in MA Responds, the new CORI Acknowledgement Form requires this data. MDPH is committed to protecting the security and privacy of MA Responds volunteer data, and therefore, has decided to not collect SSN information in the database. Instead, at the time a volunteer prints and signs his/her CORI Acknowledgement Form, s/he will be instructed to write-in the required information. Once received by MDPH, the Acknowledgement Form will be kept secured and the iCORI run. As prescribed by the law, MDPH will keep the CORI Acknowledgement Form for one year and shred after that time. A summary of the CORI reform can be found by visiting http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/chsb/implementing-cori-reform.pdf.

Please remember, volunteers must have a satisfactory resolution to their iCORI prior to being notified or scheduled to any MA Responds events. If you haven't done so previously, please log onto your MA Responds profile, www.maresponds.org to download the pre-populated CORI Acknowledgement Form and turn it in today!

Join MA Responds

If your unit is not yet a member of MA Responds, please contact Regan Checchio, Regina Villa Associates at rchecchio@regianavilla.com for more information. Please visit the MRC state website to download a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Once the MOU has been signed and returned to DPH, your unit can join a group of units integrating into the system. A copy of the MA Responds Policy and Procedures manual is also available on the MRC state website. For more information about MA Responds, please contact Lindsay Tallon.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Register Today for Next VICNetwork Webinar:
Influenza Outlook:Staregies and plans for the 2012-12013 Season

July 25, 2012
2:00 PM EST

The next Virtual Immunization Communication Network (VICNetwork) webinar will feature three great presenters from the CDC who will provide updates on the upcoming flu season, share campaign plans for promotion efforts for the 2012-13 influenza vaccination season and review ways to use traditional and new media to promote and coordinate influenza vaccination activities and messaging. Register now at http://nphic-cic-events.webex.com.

Boston All Hazards - All Stakeholders Summit 2012
August 9,2012
Sheraton Boston Hotel
Boston, MA
This session will provide guidance on creating a coordinated system of preparedness, response and recovery inclusive of partnerships among emergency management, law enforcement and the whole community. This presentation will discuss practices on inclusive planning to ensure the needs of people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs are met before, during and after a disaster. The City of Boston's Mayor's Office of Emergency Management Acting Director, Rene Fielding, will be a featured presenter among others. The summit is only open to public-sector employees. For additional details and registration information visit www.emergencymgmt.com/events/Boston-All-Hazards-All-Stakeholders-Summit-2012.html.

The 17th Annual MIAP Conference
October 11, 2012
The Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel
Marlborough, MA
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Keynote Speakers: Seth Mnookin, author of "*The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Autism-Vaccine Controversy*", and Susan Lett, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Immunization Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). Registration forms will be available starting August 1, 2012, on the MDPH website: www.mass.gov/dph/imm. Click on advisories, alerts and events.

2012 Integrated Training Summit Presentations Now Available
Selected presentations from the 2012 Integrated Training Summit, held in Nashville, Tennessee from May 21-25, 2012 are now available for viewing. The training summit brought together Health and Human Services partners including the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). Expert faculty presented on the following key focus areas; Healthcare Systems, Leadership, Public Health, Resource Management & Patient Movement, and Response Integration/Operational Medicine. To access the presentations, please visit: http://go.usa.gov/vNp

SAMHSA Promising Practices in Disaster Behavioral Health Planning Webinar Series Archive
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association (SAMHSA) Disaster Technical Assistance Center (DTAC) archived webinar series consists of nine webinars addressing promising practices in integrated mental health and substance abuse disaster behavioral health (DBH) planning. These free webinars are meant to assist State and Territory disaster behavioral health coordinators, disaster mental health coordinators, and disaster substance abuse coordinators, as well as emergency management/behavioral health coordinators for Tribes, with the development and implementation of their DBH plans. The recordings can be accessed online at http://www.samhsa.gov/dtac/webinars/webinars.asp.

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

HHS Grants $971 Million to Bolster Disaster Preparedness

On July 2, 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that it has awarded more than $971 million dollars to continue improving preparedness and health outcomes for a wide range of public health threats within every state, eight U.S. territories and four of the nation's largest metropolitan areas. To read the full report, please visit: http://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/hhs-grants-971m-bolster-disaster-preparedness.

September is National Preparedness Month

The theme for this year's National Preparedness Month is "Pledge to Prepare." The National Preparedness Month Coalition encourages citizens, businesses, and other organizations to sign up to become a Coalition member and join a community of people planning preparedness events across the country. Joining the National Preparedness Month Coalition provides an opportunity to learn about the number of easy ways that you, your organization, or your place of work can fulfill the pledge and become better prepared for disasters this year. A series of Community Preparedness Webinars, leading up to National Preparedness Month, was launched this month. To learn more about how to become involved in the Ready campaign for National Preparedness Month please click here: http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM

Officials Prepare for Public Health Challenges of Olympics

The London summer games begin July 27, 2012. Public health officials in London see this as a mass gathering event that requires them to ramp up their preparation and response activities. During the Olympics, they will monitor doctors' offices and hospitals daily, hoping they can head off the spread of infectious diseases. The U.S. is particularly concerned about exposure to measles. We have the opportunity to observe the intersection of public health and disaster medicine in action at the Olympics this summer! Read more about the public health preparations in this American Public Health Association Article.

Additional information on mass gatherings is available on the National Library of Medicine's Public Health Preparedness for Mass Gatherings page.

NOAA's Weather-Ready Nation

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather-Ready Nation is about building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather and water events. Record-breaking snowfall, cold temperatures, extended drought, high heat, severe flooding, violent tornadoes, and massive hurricanes have all combined to reach the greatest number of multi-billion dollar weather disasters in the nation's history. Through operational initiatives, NOAA's National Weather Service is transforming its operations to help America respond. The initiative includes improvements in a wide range of areas to support management of the nation's water supply, understanding of climate-related risks,

economic productivity, healthy communities and ecosystems. To learn more, please visit the Weather-Ready Nation website.

Animals and Disasters Information
This Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Disaster Behavioral Health Information Series web page addresses the need to include the care of domestic pets, service animals, and livestock in overall disaster plans. There is also guidance regarding disaster shelters for animals and information on coping with the loss of a pet. The collection includes an annotated bibliography, as well as a helpful links section, which includes information and links to organizations and agencies that address disaster-related preparedness and response activities for animal owners. http://www.samhsa.gov/dtac/dbhis/dbhis_animals_intro.asp.

Disaster Preparedness Facebook App
The bReddi Facebook application was introduced at June's Health Data Initiative Forum III: The Health Datapalooza. The application helps individuals prepare for natural disasters and other emergencies. It allows users to manage their preparedness needs, from designating lifelines to determining meeting places to inventorying supplies for an emergency kit. The application provides users with their own geographic threat levels, and geographic threat levels for their lifeline connections. For more information: www.breddi.com.

Wireless Emergency Alerts on Your Mobile Device
Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) are free wireless notifications that are delivered to your mobile device as part of a new public safety system provided by Authorized Senders. They are designed to inform you of imminent threats to safety or missing persons alerts in your area. In order to receive WEAs, you must have a capable device and be located in an area (e.g., county) targeted by Authorized Senders to receive the alert. Starting this month, wireless providers will send a special type of text message to warn people of extreme weather and other emergencies. The WEA system is location-based and free; messages will be sent based on where you are and there is no need to sign-up. More information is available at: http://www.ctia.org/consumer_info/safety/index.cfm/AID/12082.

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