MA RESPONDS NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Being Prepared for the Unexpected: Building Resilient Communities
Recent events both in the United States and abroad remind us of how quickly our surroundings can change. No matter what the event, the health of our communities depends on good disaster planning and preparedness.

This program will help participants learn the principals they need to know in order to be prepared without placing themselves in unnecessary harm. Speakers include Commissioner William Evans, Boston Police Department, John J. Burke, MS Deputy Fire Chief, Town of Sandwich, Eric Goralnick MD, MS, Medical Director of Emergency Preparedness, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Lisa Crowner, Region 5 Coordinator, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Topics to be covered include the importance of reporting suspicious activity, how to recognize potentially important signs and signals in a serious situation, the importance of adhering to the incident command system and how to cope and provide support to others after an event.

The program will be held at Massachusetts Medical Society headquarters on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 in Waltham from 6:00PM to 9:00PM and is free for MA Responds and MRC volunteers! Enter or mention promotional code MRC2016 when registering. To register please visit www.massmed.org/mrc2016. Detailed information about the agenda and faculty biographies can be viewed at: www.massmed.org/prepagenda2016. For more information, please contact Vanessa Kenealy.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Ounce of Prevention Conference
April 12, 2016
DCU Center
Worcester, MA
The annual Ounce of Prevention conference continues to be a great opportunity to bring together stakeholders from across the Commonwealth working to create healthier and more equitable communities. This year’s keynote speaker is Dr. Gail Christopher, D.N., Vice President for Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation and Senior Advisor, W.K. Kellogg Foundation. For more information or to register, please visit the conference website.

MAPHN 20th Annual Conference
April 13-14, 2016
Ocean Edge Resort
Brewster, MA
The 20th Annual Conference features an evening program on April 13, 2016, and the full day conference the following day. For more information about the conference or to register, please click here.
2016 Preparedness Summit
April 19-22, 2016
Dallas Hilton Anatole
Dallas, TX
In a world of increasingly global and uncharted threats, public health professionals must learn how to respond to a wide array of potential emergencies and disasters. The 2016 summit, Planning Today for Rebuilding Tomorrow presents opportunities to connect with colleagues, share new research, and learn how to implement model practices. Visit: http://preparednesssummit.org for more information on registration and the summit agenda.

The 21th Annual Adult Immunization Conference
April 27, 2016
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel
Marlborough, MA
Register for the 21th Annual Adult Immunization Conference. This year’s keynote speaker is Robert H. Hopkins Jr, MD, FAAP, FACP Professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics; Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences;; serves on the ACIP Adult Immunization Work Group and clinical lead for a number of American College of Physicians Quality Connect Immunization projects focused on improving Adult Immunization practices For more information about the conference please visit the 2016 conference website.

The 12th Annual Joint Commission and Joint Commission Resources Emergency Preparedness Conference
May 3-4, 2016
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
New Orleans, LA
Learn from nationally recognized experts in emergency management and Joint Commission staff. The plenary session will address today’s hot topics. Breakout sessions will provide real world examples of experiences from healthcare organizations from throughout the country and will provide tools and resources that support compliance with The Joint Commissions’ Emergency Management Standards. Please visit the Joint Commission’s conference webpage for more information or to register.

MetroWest K9-5K and Health Fair
June 4, 2016
YMCA Family Outdoor Center
Hopkinton, MA
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association Charities is hosting the first annual Metrowest K95K. People will be able to run or walk the course with or without their dogs and then attend a Health and Fitness Fair that will promote people and their dogs staying healthy together. Join us as we celebrate the human animal bond and the One Health concept. More information is available at: www.metrowestk95k.com.

Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART)
Through a collaborative effort, with support of the MVMA, the MVTA, SMART, Becker College and others, this DHS approved course in now available in Massachusetts. This course is designed to help first responders handle animal issues that they may encounter in an effective and safe way. The course is 3 hours and can be scheduled by contacting David Schwarz at dschwarz@smartma.org.
MA Responds Orientation Curriculum – Certificate of Completion
Volunteers are now able to request a certificate of completion when they finish the MA Responds on-line curriculum learning modules. A certificate will be sent to volunteers via email. Registration on the MMS site is no longer required to access the content. The 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 from their local MRC unit or other volunteer group. Modules include: Public Health Preparedness, Incident Command System, Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication, Personal Preparedness, Activation, Safety and Security, Individuals with Disabilities or Access and Functional Needs, and Disaster Mental Health. The course can be accessed by clicking here.

PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND RESOURCES

National Public Health Week is April 4-10, 2016
National Public Health Week (NPHW) is a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation. For nearly 20 years, the American public Health Association has served as the organizer of NPHW. Every year, the Association develops a national campaign to educate the public, policymakers and practitioners about issues related to each year’s theme. For more information about the campaign or to sign up for updates, please visit: http://www.nphw.org.

Zika Virus
The latest information on Zika virus including symptoms, diagnosis and treatment as well as information for pregnant women is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and at the World Health Organization.

WHO Zika App Now Available
The World Health Organization has created a Zika app. The app gathers all of WHO's guidance for agencies and individuals involved in the response to Zika Virus Disease and its suspected complications such as microcephaly, and for health care workers such as doctors, nurses and community health workers. The English version of the app is now available both in Android and iOS versions.

The National Resource Center on Advancing Emergency Preparedness for Culturally Diverse Communities
The National Resource Center on Advancing Emergency Preparedness for Culturally Diverse Communities is a web-based library of resources and information on disaster preparedness for culturally diverse communities and other at-risk populations. The planning tools, fact sheets, trainings, and other materials available through this site have been developed by academic centers, government agencies, and non-profit organizations from across the United States. They are geared for public health, healthcare, emergency management, and social service providers who work with diverse and high-risk communities. The center’s resources are accessible at www.diversitypreparedness.org.

Warm Winter Expected to Affect Animal Populations
Marion Larson, chief of information and education with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, said the warm weather has the ability to yield “local population effects,” and changes in behavior. Larger populations of mosquitoes could mean an increased risk of West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis (EEE.)
including mosquito populations. Read the full article about how weather impacts animal populations.

MEMAs Access and Functional Needs Resource Guide
This guide assists local communities with their planning efforts to integrate considerations for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs into all local emergency programs, services and activities. To access or download the guide, click here.

Public Health Preparedness: 2016 National Snapshot
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR) leads the agency’s preparedness and response activities by providing strategic direction, support, and coordination for activities. This report highlights how OPHPR strengthens the nation’s health security to save lives and protect against public health threats. Massachusetts is featured on page 76-77.

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