

Central District Health Department



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We're A Tobacco Free Zone



To protect the health of **everyone** at CDHD, no smoking or other tobacco use is permitted in our facilities or on our property, both indoors and out.

Thank you for your cooperation.



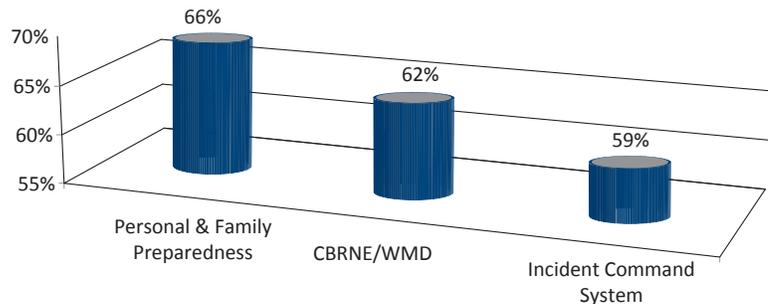
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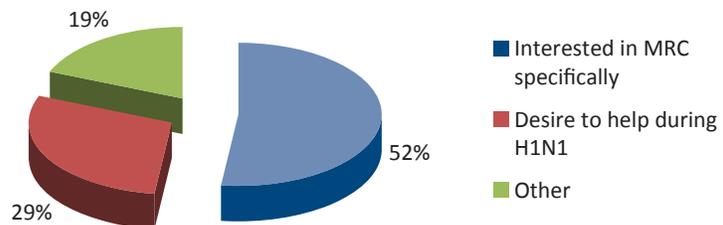
We recently conducted an online survey to review the current climate of the MRC Program through you, the volunteers. We had an excellent return – 104 volunteers completed the survey and all participants were entered into a raffle to win one of two \$25 Visa Gift Cards. **Congratulations to our two gift card winners: Slavik Osipchuk and Karen Brescia!**

Here are some of the key findings:

Top Three Training Topics Requested:



Top motivators for MRC Involvement:



In addition to questions about motivators and training, the survey assessed the volunteers' backgrounds. Approximately two-thirds of volunteers reported having a medical background.

The survey participants also reported that Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and Saturday mornings are the best times to schedule MRC training and orientations. This information will be used to schedule future activities that may better fit with volunteers' schedules.

Thank you to all those who took the time to participate in the survey! We know your time is valuable, and we greatly appreciate your effort in helping to improve the MRC program. For those who did not get a chance to participate (or even if you did), your feedback, comments, or suggestions regarding the MRC Program are always welcome. Please contact Kathryn Quinn at 327-8597 or kquinn@cdhd.idaho.gov.

Ready or Not? 2010

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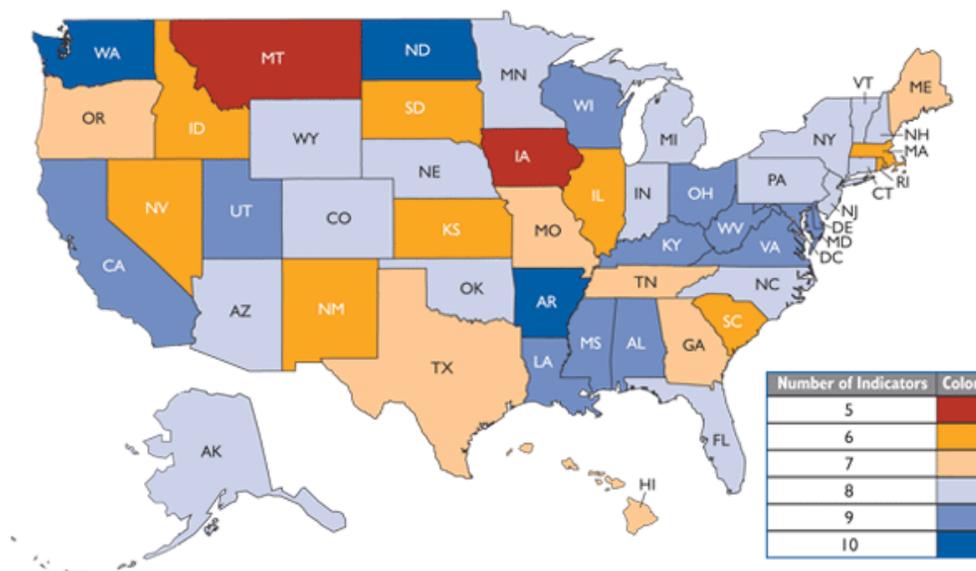
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Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation released the eighth annual *Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism* report, which finds that nearly a decade of progress to protect the country from disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and bioterrorism is now at risk due to budget cuts at the local, state and federal level. In addition, the report concludes that gaps remain in many critical areas of preparedness, including basic infrastructure and funding, biosurveillance, health care surge capacity, and community resiliency. The report contains state by state health preparedness scores based on 10 key indicators to assess health emergency preparedness capabilities.



Half of states and the District of Columbia achieved a score of 7 or 8 out of 10 key indicators. Arkansas, North Dakota and Washington State scored the highest possible with 10 out of 10 and Montana and Iowa scored the lowest with 5 out of 10.

How did Idaho do? Idaho scored 6 out of 10 along with eight other states: Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and South Dakota. The report found Idaho's potential weaknesses in the following areas: decreasing of funding at the state level for public health services, the lack of a state level electronic disease surveillance system, no requirement for licensed child care facilities to have a multi-hazard written evacuation and relocation plan, and the speed of identification and reporting of disease causing *E. coli* O157:H7 bacteria. To view the entire report, please visit: <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror10/>.



Training and Exercises at CDHD

A widespread public health emergency will take a large number of people in order to have an effective and successful response. At Central District Health Department, we know that we cannot operate with only our staff during an emergency, especially if we need to maintain our day-to-day public health services for the community, which are critical for many people. Because of this, our MRC volunteers are a vital component in our ability to respond to a public health emergency, as was clearly shown during the H1N1 influenza pandemic.

CDHD employees participate in many preparedness-related training and exercise activities in a variety of ways throughout the year to improve our response capabilities, knowing that a public health emergency can occur at any time. A popular saying within the world of public health preparedness is “it’s not if, it’s when the next emergency will occur.” Since emergencies are so unpredictable and can arise from a variety of situations, we must work continuously to both maintain and improve upon our response capabilities.

As we look into the coming year, the goal for our staff is to increase their ability to assume a leadership role in a response. Under our staff team leaders, we also know we will need a group of well-trained volunteers. The best way for our staff and our volunteers to work together as a team is to have them train and exercise as a team. The two response activities where CDHD staff and MRC volunteers will be working very closely are the District Distribution Center (DDC) and the Points of Dispensing (PODs).

More information on how you can be involved in our upcoming activities will be sent out soon. You can also contact Kathryn Quinn at 327-8597 or kquinn@cdhd.idaho.gov if you have questions or if you are interested in helping out.



What's Coming Up – Training and Exercises

District Distribution Center (DDC)

The purpose of the DDC is to warehouse all of the supplies that will be sent out the points of dispensing – called “PODs.” The DDC is used to receive, store, and ship medical supplies needed in an emergency. CDHD has scheduled a DDC exercise for March 2011 to ensure that our DDC Team Leaders will be able to train their team members in their response roles.

Points of Dispensing (PODs)

In an emergency where we need to get medicine or supplies out to the public quickly, PODs would be established throughout the affected area. Our goal is to ensure that the POD Team Leads will be able to train others to work on their teams: helping clients move through the PODs, dispensing medication, and providing health information. A POD exercise has been scheduled for June 2011 for our team leads to practice training others (health department staff and MRC Volunteers) to be effective POD team staff.

National Disaster Medical Service Federal Coordinating Center

The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) is a cooperative effort to care for victims of any incident that exceeds the medical care capability of any affected regional, state, or federal medical care system. The Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center (BVAMC) is a designated Federal Coordinating Center (FCC) for the NDMS. In order to prepare to receive patients, BVAMC must plan, train, and exercise with a number of local agencies. BVAMC is preparing for a full-scale exercise of this plan in May 2011 and volunteers will be needed both for a training activity in March and for the exercise in May.

Coordinator's Corner – CDHD Welcomes a New MRC Coordinator



My name is Kathryn (Katy) Quinn and I am the new Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Coordinator for Central District Health Department. I have worked in the Public Health Preparedness Program (PHP) at CDHD for almost three years as the Health Educator and I am happy to now also carry the title of MRC Coordinator. Some of you might recognize my name from the H1N1 pandemic influenza response from last year.

We in PHP have a busy year ahead of us and I certainly see opportunities where volunteers would be a great addition to our preparedness activities. I look forward to working with you again and getting to know the volunteers I have yet to meet. I hope you all had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. Please feel free to call or email me anytime at (208) 327-8597 or kquinn@cdhd.idaho.gov

ICS and NIMS Online Training

FEMA's Independent Study Program offers many emergency management training courses online, free of charge. The most applicable courses for MRC Volunteers are the ICS 100 and NIMS (IS 700). These are the introductory courses to the Incident Command System and the National Incident Management System, respectively.

Have you already completed ICS 100 or NIMS (IS 700)? If you have, please email a copy of your certificate to kquinn@cdhd.idaho.gov. You can also mail a copy to us at 707 N. Armstrong Place, Boise, ID 83704. That way we can keep a copy of the training in your volunteer record. If you haven't already completed the training, please go to:

Introduction to Incident Command System- ICS 100

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp>

National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction- IS 700

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700a.asp>

Volunteer Idaho

We are continuing to transition into using the new volunteer registration and tracking system called "Volunteer Idaho." This is simply a statewide, online program to keep track of volunteer activities and to notify volunteers of when their assistance is needed. All seven health districts in Idaho are moving towards using this program. One added benefit for medical volunteers with the new system: it provides a reminder for when professional licenses are going to expire.

If you have not yet registered at www.volunteeridaho.org, please do so. When you first get to the site, you will see a map of the 7 health districts in Idaho. Central District Health Department is Region 4. To get started with the registration, just click on Region 4 and follow the instructions. Please register on the website even if you have already completed the paper volunteer registration form.

Please contact Kathryn Quinn anytime at kquinn@cdhd.idaho.gov or 327-8597 if you have any questions or if you need assistance with the registration process.

Medical Reserve Corps Orientation

MRC Orientations are two-hour sessions which provide volunteers information about public health's role in emergencies, the mission of CDHD, and the MRC program's goals, policies, and procedures. These sessions are aimed at both volunteers who are new to the program and current volunteers who are looking for a "refresher."

The next MRC Orientations will take place at the CDHD Boise Office, 707 N. Armstrong Pl.:

- Saturday, March 19, 2011 10:00am to 12:00pm
- Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:30pm to 8:30pm

- Saturday, April 16, 2011 10:00am to 12:00pm
- Tuesday, April 19, 2011 6:30pm to 8:30pm

- Tuesday, May 17, 2011 6:30pm to 8:30pm
- Saturday, May 21, 2011 10:00am to 12:00pm

If you have a friend or family member who is not yet registered as an MRC volunteer, but might be interested in joining the program, please feel free to invite them to an orientation. It is a great way to get more information about the program and ask questions. Please just let us know if you are bringing someone with you when you register.



Please register for the orientation that best fits your schedule. Contact Kathryn Quinn at kquinn@cdhd.idaho.gov or 327-8597 to sign up for an orientation or if you have any questions.

If it turns out that you cannot attend an orientation that you registered for, please email or call Kathryn Quinn to give as much notice as you are able (of course, we do understand when things come up last minute). Orientations may be canceled or rescheduled if there is low attendance.

Member Contact Information

The majority of our communication with you is done via e-mail. It has proven to be the best way to get information out to a large group of people quickly and easily. We realize, however, that e-mail addresses change often and become outdated. If you have recently changed your e-mail address, or have noticed that you haven't heard from us in a while, please give me a call or send me an e-mail with your current contact information. We want to stay in touch! Please contact Kathryn Quinn at 327-8597 or kquinn@cdhd.idaho.gov. Thank you!

Thank You

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have taken time out of their busy schedules to help us out with projects recently.

Tuberculosis Directly Observed Therapy:

Myrna Martin Cathy Dunsing
Patrice Smith

School-Based Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Clinics:

Ruth Simerly Steve Moreno Mary Eavenson
Karen Brescia Polly Myser

Refugee Program Filing Project:

Robert Hoffman Sarita Aguilar
Mary Eavenson

Reproduction Health Filing Project:

Laurel Montaine

Immunization Filing Project:

Mary Eavenson Janet Shackelford
Fawn Carey Polly Myser
Patrice Smith Carol Ebling
Gerard Bedard



A Look Ahead

Keep an eye on this section for a schedule of meetings, upcoming volunteer opportunities, response exercises, and other public health events.

March

- FCC Patient Reception Area Training: 3/15
- CDHD DDC (Warehouse) Training/Exercise
March 29
- MRC Orientation: Saturday 3/19, 10:00am to
12:00pm
- MRC Orientation: Wednesday 3/23, 6:30pm to
8:30pm

April

- MRC Orientation: Saturday 4/16, 10:00am to
12:00pm
- MRC Orientation: Tuesday 4/19, 6:30pm to
8:30pm

May

- FCC Full-Scale Exercise: 5/11 - 5/12
- MRC Orientation: Tuesday 5/17, 6:30pm to
12:00pm
- MRC Orientation: Saturday 5/21, 10:00am to
12:00pm

June

- CDHD POD Training/Exercise June 29

July

- MRC Orientation (TBA)

August

- MRC Orientation (TBA)



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