



Henrico Medical Reserve Corps "MRC" Voice

Volume 1, Issue 6

July, August and September 2009

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Henrico MRC serving our residents.

Henrico Infant Mortality, July 2009

Henrico Health Department continues to implement its *Community Voice (CV)* lay health advisors (LHA) trainings. The community Voice training is a program that provides education on women and infant health before, during, and after pregnancy. The current session commenced on Sunday, June 21 at the African Christian Community Church, 2300 Dumbarton Road. At the opening, Rev. Calvin Birch thanked the Henrico Health Department and county officials for the program. He also praised the

governor of Virginia, Timothy Kaine and Virginia Department of Health Commissioner, Dr. Remley for prioritizing infant health and mother care which is one of the pillars of his teachings. Rev. Birch, a participant of the current session, has seen the program's value and requested another session of the Community Voice program to include members of this congregation who could not attend the session.

In a related development, Henrico County is currently planning its second Community

Voice Town Hall meeting to be held in the Fairfield District. The meeting which is scheduled to take place next month will bring together government officials, businesses, the religious community, health care providers, MRC volunteers and other partners including the general public. The purpose of the meeting is to create awareness, develop partnerships, encourage participation and build a Community Action Team (CAT) for the 2009-2010 Saving Babies Campaign.

June 28, 2009 Dispensing Exercise



On June 28, 2009 the Henrico Health Department exercised for the first time in the United States a Mass Dispensing Plan involving multiple pharmacies, Ukrops, Rite Aid, CVS and Walgreens. The exercise took place at the Woodman Road CVS pharmacy. The drill implemented an emergency distribution plan through a partnership formed with local pharmacies to provide medications and vaccines to the local residents during a public health emergency throughout the county. The drill modeled Henrico response to an imaginary release of anthrax spores within the county. The

exercise involved a joint operation including the Division of Police and the Sheriff's Office among others. The Division of Police was tasked with traffic control and external security and the Sheriff's Office was tasked with safety and internal security.

Mr. George Drumwright, Henrico County Health Services Supervisor observed the event along with Anna McRay, the county's Emergency Manager, who evaluated the exercise. Other participants included mock victims from the Henrico Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), MCV/VCU School of Pharmacy, store patrons and other community volunteers. Also present at the exercise were acting Henrico Health Director, Dr. Nelson and MRC Coordinator, Chesterfield Health District, Mr. Jon Donnelly.

The incident commander Mr. Philip Morris, of CVS, assigned roles and briefed the team a few minutes before the event began.

At 6:00 pm, the participants registered for their medications and were directed to screening where their forms were reviewed. Participants proceeded to the dispensing point where pharmacist again reviewed their forms and dispensed the appropriate medication. They were then routed to the exit point.

As an all out event to effectively dispense medication to the general public the stores drive through window was also used as a distribution point.

At the end of the event, Richmond CBS Channel 6 conducted an interview with Mr. Mike Magner, Henrico Health Department Planner.

Henrico Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)



For information on VA. fire Corps
please call (804)249-1982

Upcoming Trainings and Events

1. July 30—H1N1 Update
2. August 19—ICS 100
3. September 30—Mass Vaccination/PODs Training

Highlights for the next edition

- Spotlight on the MRC Volunteer of the Month
- H1N1 and (H5N1) Updates
- MRC News
- And more

Henrico County MRC is a local chapter of the National Medical Reserve Corps. The MRC is a volunteer organization that is organized, trained and ready to respond to disasters and public health emergencies. MRC Volunteers may be called upon to dispense medications and vaccinations, treat evacuees living in emergency shelters, or assist in many other ways. MRC Volunteers may be healthcare professionals (such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, x-ray technicians, nurses aids, etc.), administrative professionals (such as medical office managers, clerical staff, etc.), or even lay persons who can help in many different ways.

To become an MRC volunteer, please call (804) 501-4643, (804)380-9321 or visit <http://HenricoHealth/mrc.html>

We are on the Web @
<http://HenricoHealth.org/mrc.html>

H1N1

On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the world wide pandemic alert level to Phase 6, signaling that a global pandemic of novel influenza A (H1N1) was underway. A reflection of the spread of the new H1N1 virus resulted in the actions of the WHO. At the time, more than 70 countries had reported cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) infection and community level outbreaks of novel H1N1 were ongoing in multiple parts of the world.

Since the WHO declaration of a pandemic, the new H1N1 virus has continued to spread, with the number of countries reporting cases of novel H1N1 nearly doubling. The Southern Hemisphere's regular influenza season has begun and countries there are reporting that the new H1N1 virus is spreading and causing illness along with regular seasonal influenza viruses. In the United States, significant novel H1N1 illness has continued into the summer, with localized and in some cases intense outbreaks occurring.

Novel influenza A (H1N1) is a new flu virus that first caused illness in Mexico and the United States in March and April, 2009. It's thought that novel influenza A

(H1N1) flu spreads in the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread, mainly through the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick with the virus, but it may also spread by touching objects contaminated with the virus and then touching your nose or mouth. Novel H1N1 infection has been reported to cause a wide range of flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. In addition, many people also have reported nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea.



As of July 10, 2009 11am, Virginia reported 306 confirmed and probable cases including 2 deaths resulting from H1N1. However, the actual number is much higher. The CDC estimates over a million have had novel H1N1 disease. Vaccines are a very important part of a response to novel H1N1 influenza and the U.S. Government is aggressively taking early steps in the process to manufacture a novel H1N1 vaccine by working closely with manufacturers. CDC has deployed 25 percent of the supplies in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to all states in

the continental United States and U.S. territories. Individuals have an important role in protecting themselves and their families. Stay informed and practice infection control measures such as wash your hands regularly, cough into your sleeves, stay at home and keep sick children from school or daycare. For additional information go to "<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>".

Henrico Health Department is calling on all volunteers, health organizations, the religious community and the general public to support its public health initiatives. Please call 804-501-4643 for more information

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Update, July 2009

Human Cases: As of 1 July 2009 there has been 436 total human cases with 262 deaths. Currently, the case fatality rate stands at 60.1%.

Pandemic Vaccination Allocation: The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Homeland Security (DHS) released guidance on allocating pandemic influenza vaccine. See: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/07/20080723a.html>