

The Latest News From MCDPH - July 2019

Dear Colleagues,

We've reached the peak of summer! Summer brings fun and sun for many, but it also brings severe weather with dangerously high temperatures and flooding rains. In just the last few months alone, thousands of people across the country are experiencing severe and devastating floods; some of the hardest hit have been Nebraska, Louisiana, Texas, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New York, and Washington DC to name a few.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Bundy - The Omaha World Herald

People have lost their lives, been displaced from their homes, had their drinking water contaminated, agriculture and crops decimated, and businesses closed. These damaging floods have far reaching impact we may not even think about, such as accessing medical care, medications, and social services for those most vulnerable.

Preparedness and partnering is crucial in times of disaster. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health recently released a very useful resource, [FLOOD TOOLKIT: A Planning Guide for Public Health and Emergency Response Professionals](#).

The purpose of this flood toolkit is to provide information to local governments, health departments, and citizens about preparing for and responding to flood events. The toolkit focuses on providing background information, practical guidance, strategies, media releases, talking points, definitions, and useful reference materials on this topic. We encourage you to review the toolkit and be sure to reach out and collaborate with your state's emergency preparedness professionals. As public health and health care professionals, we must address these issues together and be active participants in our state's emergency preparedness.

Best Regards,
Danielle Louder and Elizabeth Foley
Co-Directors, MCD Public Health

2019 NETRC Conference

On June 17 and 18, the Northeast Telehealth Resource Center (NETRC) hosted its 5th annual regional telehealth conference in Portland, Maine. Over 200 participants, including 21 sponsors/exhibitors and numerous speakers attended the two-day event from all across the NETRC region (CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, and VT) and the nation. The theme for this year's conference was "A Practical Tour of the Telehealth Landscape", and was designed to offer stakeholders an opportunity to leverage learning and collaboration.



Members of the NETRC team: (Reid Plimpton, Dr. Terry Rabinowitz and Danielle Louder), with partners from the HRSA Office of Regional Operations – Region 1 (Veronica Roa and Capt. Chris Bersani) and the New England Rural Health Association (Kim Mohan).

The conference featured a pre-conference workshop focused on telemental health, an evening networking session, many conference exhibitors, engaging plenaries, and multiple unique and informative breakout sessions, including: two telehealth technology showcases from our wonderful colleagues at TTAC, use cases and lessons learned from USDA’s Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant program, Emergency use cases including paramedicine, tele-ICU, and tele-NICU, store-and-forward use cases, program perspectives from small and large healthcare organizations and systems, and Project ECHO implementation. The event wrapped up with a thought provoking plenary panel focused on Older Adults and Telehealth.

Keep an eye on the events page on the [NETRC website](#) for future information on the 2020 conference date and location! Sign up for our [newsletter](#) for regular updates on regional telehealth and efforts specific to telehealth.

July is National Park & Recreation Month

Since 1985, Americans have celebrated Park and Recreation Month in July to promote the importance of parks and recreation in health and wellness, conservation and social equity, and to recognize the thousands of park and recreation employees that maintain our nation’s local, state and community parks. Park and recreation agencies across the country are recognizing the month with summer programs, events, contests, commemorations and celebrations. Park and recreation services are vital for our communities from protecting open space and natural resources, to helping fight obesity and providing activities and resources for all walks of life. Park and Recreation Month encourages everyone to reflect on the exponential value parks and recreation brings to communities. Visit the [National Recreation and Park Association](#) website for more information.



Also sure to visit the [National Association of State Parks](#) and [National Park Service](#) to find parks in your state.

Congratulations to the Maine CDC



Photo courtesy of Maine Public Health Association

On June 6th, the Maine Public Health Association (MPHA) held their annual Public Health Awards Ceremony. Among award recipients was the Maine CDC, receiving the Unsung Hero Award. According to MPHA, this award is "for those who work hard every day to protect and promote public health in whatever capacity is needed, and with a commitment to excellence." The Maine CDC staff were the inaugural recipients of this award.

When being presented with the award, the Maine CDC was also recognized for maintaining public health accreditation, continuing disease surveillance programs, managing district and coordinating counsels, and continuing to implement essential public health programs, despite challenging times. Please join us in congratulating the Maine CDC staff for their hard work and continued dedication to the field of public health.

Join Our Team

MCD is seeking talented individuals for both domestic and international positions:

Domestic Public Health



[Click here](#) to see current opportunities.

International Public Health



[Click here](#) to see current opportunities.

Upcoming Events

Maine Harm Reduction Conference - October 4, 2019 - Portland, ME. For more information, [click here](#).

Prevention Professionals Days - October 29-30, 2019 - Freeport, ME. For more information, [click here](#).

2019 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo - November 2-6, 2019 - Philadelphia, PA. For more information, [click here](#).

New England Rural Health Association's 2019 Rural Health Conference - November 6-7, 2019 - Newry, ME. For more information, [click here](#).

2019 Maine Cardiovascular Health Council Summit - November 7, 2019 - Rockport, ME. For more information, [click here](#).

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