USES FOR MRC VOLUNTEERS IN EBOLA & OTHER EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES

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Resilient People. Healthy Communities. A Nation Prepared.
What are "Emerging" Infectious Diseases?

- Infectious diseases whose incidence in humans has increased in the past 2 decades or threatens to increase in the near future have been defined as "emerging." These diseases, which respect no national boundaries, include:
  - New infections resulting from changes or evolution of existing organisms.
  - Known infections spreading to new geographic areas or populations.
  - Previously unrecognized infections appearing in areas undergoing ecologic transformation.
  - Old infections reemerging as a result of antimicrobial resistance in known agents or breakdowns in public health measures.

Source: Centers for Disease Control (Journal May 2014)
Dengue Fever

INFLUENZA

Chikungunya

HIV

HEP-C

Pertussis

Challenging New Threats Every Year!!

Tuberculosis

ZIKA VIRUS

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

Measles

WEST NILE VIRUS
September 2014, Patient Zero walked into the Emergency Room of a Dallas Hospital with nausea, vomiting, and history of travel to West Africa.
- He was treated and released from the hospital.
- He returned to the hospital by ambulance several days later with fever and worsening symptoms.
- He was admitted and diagnosed with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

Everything Changed!!!
Media/Public Scrutiny

- Ebola was the featured story on the evening news every day.
- Speculation ran rampant. (Cleaning agents/waste disposal/contamination).
- The Dallas Hospital where patient zero was treated received lots of criticism. CDC/Hospital/Public Health received a good amount of criticism.
- Expectations/demands often did not fit budgetary realities.
Images Of Ebola Captured in Local News
Dallas Images

EBOLA IN DALLAS
Decontamination

Sheriff
Attempts At Humor

Halloween Ebola House  
Cowboy Game
REAL PUBLIC FEAR
Request For Guidance
Came From

- General Public
- City EMS/Fire/Police Departments
- Schools/Universities
- Work Places
- Public Transportation Systems (Buses/Trains/Airplanes)
- Shopping Centers
- Places of Worship

*Public Health Staff Quickly Overrun*
Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy & Prepared Communities
Dallas Ebola MRC Engagement

Dallas County MRC (2014)
- Helped to develop custom and culturally sensitive informational materials.
- Staffed a call center for 22 days.
- 95 Volunteers provided 641 hours.
- Economic Impact over $13,000.

Collin County MRC
- Case Contact Monitoring for 17 days.
- 23 Volunteers provided 463 hours.
- Economic Impact over $15,000.

Denton County MRC
- Provided Ebola Information & PFA for general public during Flu Clinic.
- 94 Volunteers provided 423 hours.
- Economic Impact over $11,000.
MRC Involvement With Other Emerging Threats

Tulsa County MRC (2013)
- Blood Borne Pathogen (HIV/HEP-C).
- Potential Exposure of 7000 Dental Patients.
- 4000 blood draws were completed.
- 185 Volunteers supported this event over several months.
- Economic Impact over $52,000.

Multi-jurisdictional Indiana MRC (2015)
- Rural IV drug epidemic resulted in HIV Outbreak.
- 22 new cases diagnosed per week.
- Units provided outreach and needle exchanges.
- MRC members provided over 1000 hours.
- Economic Impact over $23,000.
MRC & Other Emerging Threats

Hawaii MRC (2016)
- Cluster of locally acquired Dengue Fever.
- To date over 220 cases (ongoing effort).
- MRC unit is offering community education in effected areas. The Kauai MRC/HOSA (Jr MRC) has also supported this effort.
- Over 81 volunteer hours have been provided to date.
- Economic Impact to date is over $2,000.

Denton County MRC (2012)
- North Texas West Nile Virus response.
- Volunteers provided phone support & WNV presentations.
- Completed disease investigation on diagnosed cases.
- 20 Volunteers provided 160 hours.
- Economic Impact over $20,000.
How Can MRC Help???

- **Alternate Care/Vaccination/Mobile Sites** - Provide staff support to a temporary clinic, distribution center, or mass vaccination campaign.

- **Behavioral Health Support** - Provide Psychological First Aid for response professionals and affected populations during a public health crisis.

- **Call Center Support** - Answer calls from the general public regarding the public health threat. Recommend using pre-scripted information sheets with a Subject Matter Expert available to answer in depth questions. Call center can also be used to support surveillance and the activation and scheduling of volunteers.
How Can MRC Help???

- **Contact Tracing** - Conduct daily follow up disposition calls for exposed hospital/EMS or other staff during critical monitoring periods.

- **Community Assessment/Education** - Canvass neighborhoods. Distribute health educational information or other resources to affected target areas during a disease outbreak. They can also provide general information/training in City/County/Hospital facilities or other high traffic areas within the community.
How Can MRC Help???

- **Reception/Comfort/Family Assistance Centers** - Provide support or collect information in a variety of formats for/from individuals and families that have been significantly impacted by a public health crisis.

- **Staff Support and Backup** – Assist health department/health system staff with day-to-day activities that continue to need attention but are overwhelmed by the outbreak.

- **Volunteer Management Support** - Volunteers that can act as volunteer coordinator/ liaison on-site, provide support and training to volunteers, assist with volunteer mobilization and demobilization.
Q & A