medical reserve corps

Outreach Guide: Potential Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Activities for Zika (and other Arbovirus)

14April2016

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES USA

ASPR
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Outreach Guide: Potential Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Activities for Zika (and other Arbovirus)

This guide has been developed primarily for MRC unit leaders, and it presents a range of activities that MRC units have undertaken, or may conduct, in response to the Zika virus. It builds on past and present MRC work related to emerging infectious diseases. We intend to keep this as a living document, and will provide updates as new information is gathered and the evidence base improves. Please provide your feedback on this guide at ***MRCcontact@hhs.gov***. In addition, please be sure to report your activities on your unit profile at ***www.medicalreservecorps.gov***.

We have provided resources from reputable sites [i.e., ASPR- TRACIE (Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange), National Library of Medicine, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], but please be sure to review these sites frequently as the situation evolves, as new or updated information is being posted often.

Priority Areas	Target Audiences	Potential Activities for MRC Units & Volunteers	Resources
Planning	• Local public health, emergency management and other officials • Healthcare Coalitions	• Determine roles for MRC volunteers to prepare for or respond to an outbreak in their community - Follow incident command guidelines - Prioritize potential activities	• ***http://www.cdc.gov/zika/public-health-partners/index.html*** • ***Zika Action Plan Template***
MRC Training	• MRC leaders and volunteers	• Provide training for MRC volunteers about Zika and other arboviruses - Engage local subject matter experts - Utilize online trainings and webinars • Provide updates on Zika risks, complications, mechanisms of transmission, mitigation strategies, etc. as the evidence base continues to develop • Discuss the potential roles that the MRC volunteers might fill in their community • Train MRC volunteers to conduct outreach to a variety of local target audiences, using the most current information/fact sheets/ talking points from appropriate sources • Provide expanded training opportunities for MRC volunteers. Potential trainings might include: - Psychological First Aid - Risk Communication - Skills for Psychological Recovery - Interviewing Skills - Epi/Patient tracking - Phone bank/Hotline Support - Vector Control/Site Inspections - Distribution Center Support	• **MRC-TRAIN:** Many free training courses, including resources related to ***vector control, Zika, epidemiology***, and the ***Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)*** • **ASPR/TRACIE:** ***https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/ASPR-TRACIE-Zika-Virus-DiseaseResources-At-Your-Fingertips.pdf*** • **National Library of Medicine** Zika Virus Health Information Resource Guide (Updated and new items in past 7 days are marked New!): ***https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/zikavirus.html***
Outreach/ Education	• Public health and healthcare professionals	• MRC volunteers can conduct outreach to local public health and healthcare professionals in order to raise awareness and knowledge base about Zika	• ***Tools for Health Care Providers*** • ***U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry*** • **ASPR/TRACIE:** ***https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/ASPR-TRACIE-Zika-Virus-DiseaseResources-At-Your-Fingertips.pdf*** • **National Library of Medicine:** ***https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/zikavirus.html***

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Outreach/ Education	• Pregnant women • Spouse/partners of pregnant women	• MRC volunteers can participate in an outreach campaign targeted at pregnant women to raise awareness of Zika virus, to include messaging on the risks, complications, mechanisms of transmission, mitigation strategies, etc. - Use appropriate behavioral interventions (Psychological First Aid, Skills for Psychological Recovery) as necessary • Provide educational interventions at community locations frequented by pregnant/young women - mother-and-child nutrition clinics, health centers, schools, day care centers and other locations • Update these individuals as the evidence base continues to develop • Provide guidance on protection from sexual transmission of Zika virus and access to appropriate protective measures (i.e. condoms)	• **ASPR/TRACIE:** *https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/ASPR-TRACIE-Zika-Virus-Disease-Resources-At-Your-Fingertips.pdf* • **National Library of Medicine:** *https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/zikavirus.html#a6* has searches of PubMed for the journal literature and Disaster Lit for guidelines, reports, etc. These searches are "live" with new information continuously being added and displayed first in the results
Outreach/ Education	• Women of child-bearing age • Spouses/partners of women of child-bearing age	• MRC volunteers can participate in an outreach campaign targeted at women of child-bearing age, and men, to raise awareness of Zika virus, with a specific focus on sexual transmission, contraception options and protective measures • Support contraception services	• **ASPR/TRACIE:**•*https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/ASPR-TRACIE-Zika-Virus-Disease Resources-At-Your-Fingertips.pdf* • *Zika and Sexual Transmission* • *Preconception counseling guide for men and women living in areas with Zika* • *Women and their partners who are thinking about pregnancy* • *Providing Quality Family Planning Services: Recommendations from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US Office of Population Affairs (QFP)*
Outreach/ Education	• At-risk individuals (i.e. travelers) • Community members	• MRC volunteers can participate in a general communication campaign to raise awareness of Zika virus, to include messaging on the risks, complications, mechanisms of transmission, mitigation strategies, etc. • MRC volunteers can support and staff call centers to answer calls from the public regarding the public health threat - Use pre-scripted information sheets (developed locally with information from CDC and other appropriate sources), with a Subject Matter Expert available to answer in-depth questions	• **ASPR/TRACIE:**•*https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/ASPR-TRACIE-Zika-Virus-DiseaseResources-At-Your-Fingertips.pdf* • **National Library of Medicine:** *https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/zikavirus.html#a13*

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Outreach/ Education	• Parents of children born with Zika-related birth defects • Community members	• MRC volunteers can provide educational materials regarding Zika-related birth defects and resources (as developed) to appropriate community members • Connect affected parents to existing support systems and services • Provide appropriate behavioral interventions (Psychological First Aid, Skills for Psychological Recovery) as necessary	• *Tools for Health Care Providers* • **National Library of Medicine:** *https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/zikavirus.html#a6*
Distribution of Zika-related Supplies	• Pregnant women • Women of child-bearing age • Vulnerable individuals (i.e., travelers) • Community members	• MRC volunteers can assist with the distribution of supply kits (i.e., mosquito repellent, mosquito net, condoms)	
Youth Engagement	• Junior MRC volunteers • Youth organization members (HOSA-Future Health Professionals, 4-H) • Students • Advisors • Family members • Community members • MRC volunteers	• Engage youth in Junior MRC units and from existing partner organizations (i.e., HOSA-Future Health Professionals, 4-H) to raise awareness of Zika amongst their families, peers, advisors and younger students - Peer-to-peer and child-to-adult educa tion is an effective means of sharing public health related information • Adult MRC volunteers can provide training about Zika (risks, complications, mechanisms of transmission, mitigation strategies, etc.) to the youth members, and coach them on communication techniques. - Youth members can then take the message to their peers, teachers, families and younger students • Youth members could use their communication networks (i.e. social media) to disseminate Zika-related information • Youth members could develop PSAs with Zika-related information targeted towards their peers and younger students	• *www.hosa.org* • **Youth engagement guides:** *http://hosa.org/node/154*

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Entomological Surveillance and Vector Control	• MRC volunteers • Community members	• MRC volunteers can support local mosquito identification and surveillance efforts • MRC volunteers can conduct public mosquito education campaigns focusing on reducing or eliminating larval habitats • MRC volunteers can participate in community wide source reduction campaigns to motivate the community to remove and dispose of any water holding containers • MRC volunteers can support clean-up campaigns targeting disposable containers (source reduction), including large junk objects that accumulate water (broken washing machines, refrigerators, toilets) in buildings, public areas, etc.	• **National Library of Medicine:** ***https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/zikavirus.html#a12*** • ***http://www.cdc.gov/zika/vector/index.html*** • ***MRC-TRAIN: Search term "Vector"*** • ***MRC-TRAIN: Search term "Surveillance"***
Epidemiology/ Surveillance	• Health department leaders • Epidemiology staff • MRC volunteers	• MRC volunteers can be trained to participate in surveillance and disease investigation for Zika cases • MRC volunteers can be trained to participate in Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) efforts	• ***http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/disaster/casper/*** • ***MRC-TRAIN: Search term "CASPER"*** • ***MRC-TRAIN: Search term "Surveillance"*** • **CDC Surveillance Resource Center:** ***http://www.cdc.gov/surveillancepractice/index.html***
Research	• MRC leaders and members • Federal, state, territorial, tribal and local government • Academic research partners	• MRC leaders and volunteers can support and assist with blood draws, data collection, interviews, etc. related to research questions about the Zika virus and its' effects	• **National Library of Medicine:** ***https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/zikavirus.html#a11***
Behavioral Health Support	• MRC volunteers • Responders • Community members	• MRC volunteers can provide Psychological First Aid for response professionals and affected individuals • MRC volunteers can support "Skills for Psychological Recovery" training in the community • MRC volunteers can provide Skills for Psychological Recovery-based interventions, as appropriate, in the community	• ***Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR)*** • ***VA Field Operations Guide – Skills for Psychological Recovery*** • ***Psychological First Aid***

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ASPR/MRC Program communication and resources	• MRC leaders and volunteers • MRC Network and stakeholders	• Provide technical assistance and guidance to MRC unit leaders based on experiences from MRC units during past public health responses to infectious disease outbreaks • Provide situational awareness and information regarding Zika to the MRC Network via MRC Listservs and social media • Provide situational awareness and information to ASPR and OEM Leadership regarding Zika-related MRC unit activities in communities - Encourage MRC units to share planned Zika-related activities in advance • Provide and promote access to Zika-related trainings via MRC-TRAIN • Raise awareness and promote activity with national-level partners (HOSA-Future Health Professionals, 4-H, CERT, etc.)	• ***www.medicalreservecorps.gov*** • **MRC Listservs:** ***https://medical reservecorps.gov/pageViewFldr/MRCListservs*** • **Email:** ***MRCContact@hhs.gov*** • **Twitter: @MRC_ASPR** • **Facebook:** ***http://www.facebook.com/medicalreservecorps***