

**CAN YOUR MRC  
VACCINATE 158,000  
SCHOOL CHILDREN?**

**Yes We Can!**

**RHODE ISLAND'S 2009  
H1N1 SCHOOL VACCINATION  
EXPERIENCE**

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RI-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team

Program Director  
RI Medical Reserve Corps



**I WANT YOU  
FOR RI RESPONDS**

**NEAREST RECRUITING STATION**

# Objectives

- ◆ Describe RI Responds Organizational Structure
- ◆ Outline RI Responds Schools Vaccination Mission
- ◆ Describe RI Responds 2009 Novel H<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub> School Vaccination program



# Our Advantages

- ◆ We're Small
- ◆ No county governments
- ◆ Limited public health jurisdictions (One State Department of Health)
- ◆ One DMAT & One MRC (Common Leadership)
- ◆ Integrated ESAR-VHP program
- ◆ Our state bird is a chicken
  - ◆ The Rhode Island Red

# RI Responds

- ◆ A tool we use to manage all Medical Volunteers in RI
- ◆ There are three projects organized under RI Responds
  - ◆ RI DMAT
  - ◆ RI MRC
  - ◆ ServRI (ESAR-VHP)
- ◆ All housed within RI DMAT, a 501 (c) 3 NGO

# RI-1 DMAT

- ◆ A federal level-one Medical Response Team
- ◆ Considerable national disaster response experience
- ◆ Responded to nearly every major disaster in US for the last 10 years
- ◆ 20 years experience in recruiting, training, and verifying the credentials of medical volunteers

# RI Medical Reserve Corps

- ◆ RI DoH provided seed money in 2002 to begin RI MRC
- ◆ Successful MRC application to OSG in 2003 (3 year award)
- ◆ Originally envisioned (by me) as a database or registry of medical volunteers, we already had a team

# SERV RI

- ◆ Rhode Island's name for ESAR-VHP
- ◆ RI DMAT, the 501 (c) 3 entity, contracts with RI DoH to manage ESAR-VHP in RI

# The H<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub> Decision

- ◆ The RI Department of Health decided that the primary focus for H<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub> vaccination efforts would be school-aged children, pregnant women, & the medically fragile
- ◆ When several Mass vaccinators were queried regarding their ability to vaccinate All 158,000 school children they were reluctant to say yes.
- ◆ The DoH then turned to RI DMAT/RI MRC and we said Yes!

# The Strategy

- ◆ A vaccination clinic would be held in Every School
- ◆ The order in which clinics were held would be randomized by computer
- ◆ Middle and high school clinics would be done in the mornings (8:00am-12:00pm)
- ◆ Elementary school clinics would be done in the afternoons (4:00pm-8:00pm) so parents would attend
- ◆ No exceptions would be made

# The Numbers

- ◆ 842 volunteers attended one of 22 competency evaluations held at RIMRC Headquarters over 6 weeks
- ◆ 749 Volunteers from the RI MRC and SERV-RI (RI ESAR-VHP Program) worked to vaccinate all school aged children in RI
- ◆ Vaccination clinics were held in All 421 schools in RI, (Public, Parochial, Private, & Specialty) (Children aged 9 & under, twice)

# The Wrap Up

- ◆ A personal handwritten note from the Director of Health, Dr. David Gifford, to every individual who contributed to the effort (>5600). Each also received a certificate signed by Gov. Carcieri & Dr. Gifford.
- ◆ After Action reports and documentation
- ◆ Presentations prepared and delivered describing our process
- ◆ A celebration is planned for June 17<sup>th</sup> to recognize the volunteers' efforts

# The Numbers: Children Vaccinated

- ◆ In Rhode Island, 156,000 children were vaccinated against H<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub> Influenza
- ◆ 85.2% of all children aged 6 months to 17 years were vaccinated. The highest percentage in the Nation.
- ◆ All school aged children were vaccinated in their own schools, by RI MRC Volunteers.

# The Numbers: Volunteers

- ◆ 820 trained & competencies verified
- ◆ 678 helped
- ◆ Filled 3985 slots
- ◆ Worked >19,985 hours
- ◆ A work year is 2080 hours
  - ◆  $19,925/2080 = 9.58$  years worked

# Summary of Activity

- ◆ Clinics began in Specialty Schools October 28<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Regular clinics began November 2<sup>nd</sup> evenings (K-5) only
- ◆ Morning & Evening clinics began November 9<sup>th</sup> and continued until we were done with the first round on December 15. Round 2 began in early January and ran 2 more weeks.
- ◆ In total, more than 140,000 children were vaccinated by RI MRC All-Volunteer force.

# Summary

- ◆ This was not our First Rodeo
  - ◆ But it did have the toughest bulls
- ◆ Huge Effort expended by an all volunteer team of RI MRC
- ◆ We have learned a lot about how to do this
- ◆ We will share any or all of it with you
- ◆ All of our paperwork and processes are available by contacting me.

Questions?

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