

# Minnesota Refugee Health Program

Refugee Health Program  
Cross-Cutting Epidemiology, Programs and Partnerships Section  
Infectious Disease, Epidemiology and Prevention Division

# VISION

**Provide bold, innovative leadership with engaged partners to ensure refugee health.**

# MISSION

**To promote and enhance the health and well-being of refugees.**

**We are committed to:**

- Ensuring timely health assessment, treatment and referral for all new refugee arrivals to the state
- Educating health care professionals on best practices in refugee health
- Offering technical assistance, education and resources to local, state and community partners
- Providing leadership and guidance to refugee health professionals in other states; and promoting public health practices and policies that further our mission



# Refugee Health Program Functions

- Coordinate domestic refugee health screenings at the state level
  - Create standardized best practices for refugee health screening in Minnesota
- Analyze data, summarize and share results
  - Develop research studies
- Train health professionals
  - Website
  - Pocket Guide, Provider guide, Health Resource Directory

# Refugee Health Program Functions (Cont'd)

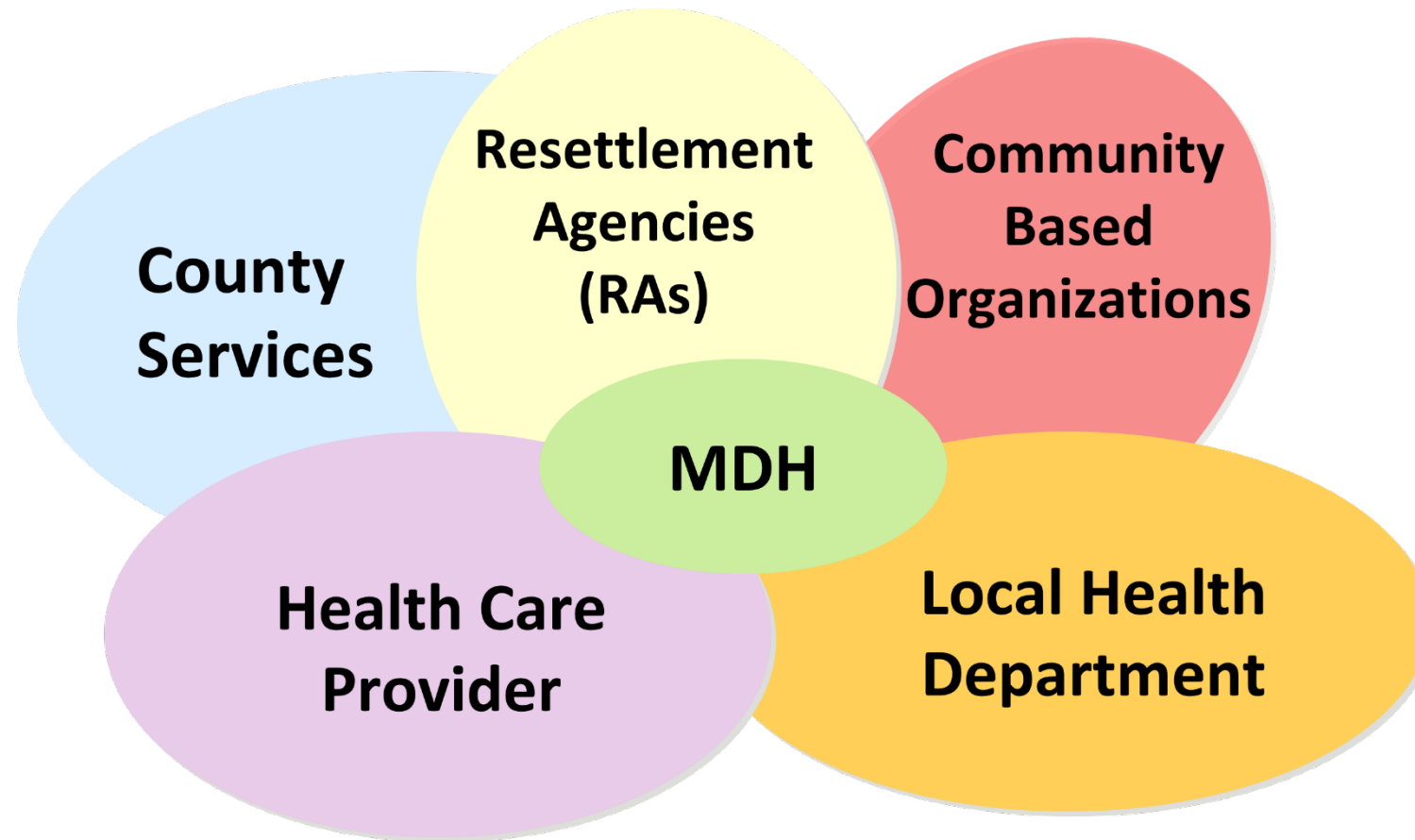
- Strengthen partnerships at state and national levels to exchange “best practices” in refugee health screening.
  - Collaborate with resettlement agencies, Local Public Health, community-based organizations
- Identify health disparities and provide support to impacted communities
  - Develop health education programs and materials
  - Presentations and presence at community events
  - Community resources
    - Diverse community radio, TV, newspapers, print materials
    - English as Second Language (ESL) Classroom

# Refugee Health Program Responsibilities

## Coordination of Health Assessments include:

- Point of notification, for health purposes, of primary refugee arrivals into the state (State Refugee Coordinators and Resettlement Agencies (RAs) have a separate notification system).
  - Forward overseas medical records and data collection forms to facilitate health screenings.
- Provide instruction/guidance to local public health (LPH) and medical clinics.
- Assist LPH, RAs with health system navigation and challenges.
- Training and education for LPH, RAs, health care providers and communities.
- Source of contact for questions, issues, and concerns related to health.

# Refugee Health Program Partners



# Role of Local Public Health

- Collaborate with resettlement agency caseworker to assist new refugees in accessing health assessment.
- Assure a complete, culturally and linguistically competent health screening.
- Assist in provider education regarding screening protocols.
- Verify completion of health assessment.
- Notify MDH of all screening results.



# Minnesota Resettlement Agencies

Agencies contracted by the U.S. Dept. of State to provide “initial reception and placement” services to newly-arrived refugees.

- Collaborate with State and Local Health Departments to ensure newly arrived refugee is linked with health care provider
  - ex: apply for insurance, communicate appointment and transportation information with refugee, notify State and Local Health Departments of new arrivals
- Provide health orientation

- Arrive Ministries, Minnesota (formerly, World Relief)
- Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota (CCSMN)
- International Institute of Minnesota (IIMN)
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS, Twin Cities and St. Cloud)
- Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC)
- United Community Action Partnership (Willmar)\*

\*affiliated with USCCB to facilitate remote placements



# Types of Medical Exams

- Overseas Visa Medical Examination
  - United States Public Health Service
- Domestic Refugee Health Assessment
  - Minnesota Department of Health
- Adjustment of Status Medical Examination
  - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
    - Needed to obtain a Green Card
    - Adjusts status from temporary to permanent resident



# Domestic Refugee Health Screening: Best Practices

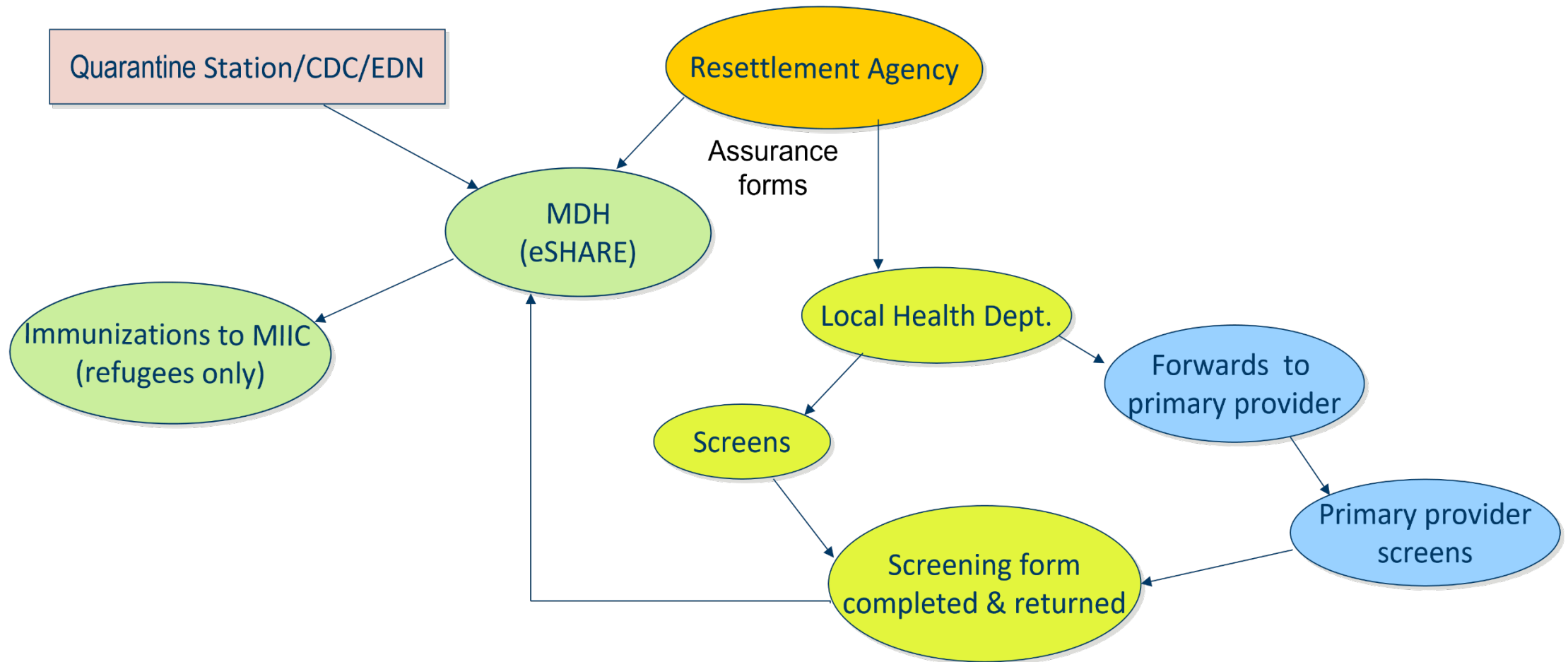
- Exam within the first 90 days of arrival
- Public health clinics and/or private providers

## **GOAL:**

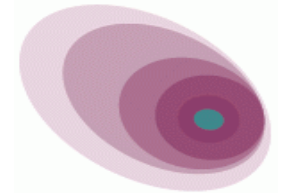
to control communicable disease among, and resulting from, the arrival of new refugees through:

- health assessment
- treatment
- referral

# Minnesota Refugee Health Screening Information Flow



# What is eSHARE?



Web-based application developed for collecting demographic and domestic health screening results to conduct disease surveillance.

- secure, remote data entry for local public health, clinics
- summary reporting tool

**MINNESOTA INITIAL REFUGEE HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORM**  
Return completed form, preferably within 30 days of U.S. date of arrival, to address or reverse side of this form.

Name (last, first, middle): \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth (month, day, year): \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alien or Visa Registration #: \_\_\_\_\_ Volag: \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Arrival Date (month, day, year): \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Origin: \_\_\_\_\_  
TB Class A or B Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of First Clinic Visit for Screening (month, day, year): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Immunization Record: Review overseas medical exam (OF-107) if available and document immunization dates. For measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella, indicate if there is lab evidence of immunity; if so, immunizations are not needed against that particular disease. For all other immunizations, update series, or begin primary series if no immunization dates are found.

Vaccine-Preventable Disease/ Immunization	T/T Series, if available (if none, indicate no record)	Immunization Date(s)					
		Mo/Day/yr	Mo/Day/yr	Mo/Day/yr	Mo/Day/yr	Mo/Day/yr	Mo/Day/yr
Measles							
Mumps							
Rubella							



**m1 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH** eSHARE

Home Search Arrivals New Arrival Search Adoptees New Adoptee

Refugee Section A Reports Refugee Section B Reports Adoptee Reports Admin

## Welcome to eSHARE

### Electronic System for Health Assessment of Refugees

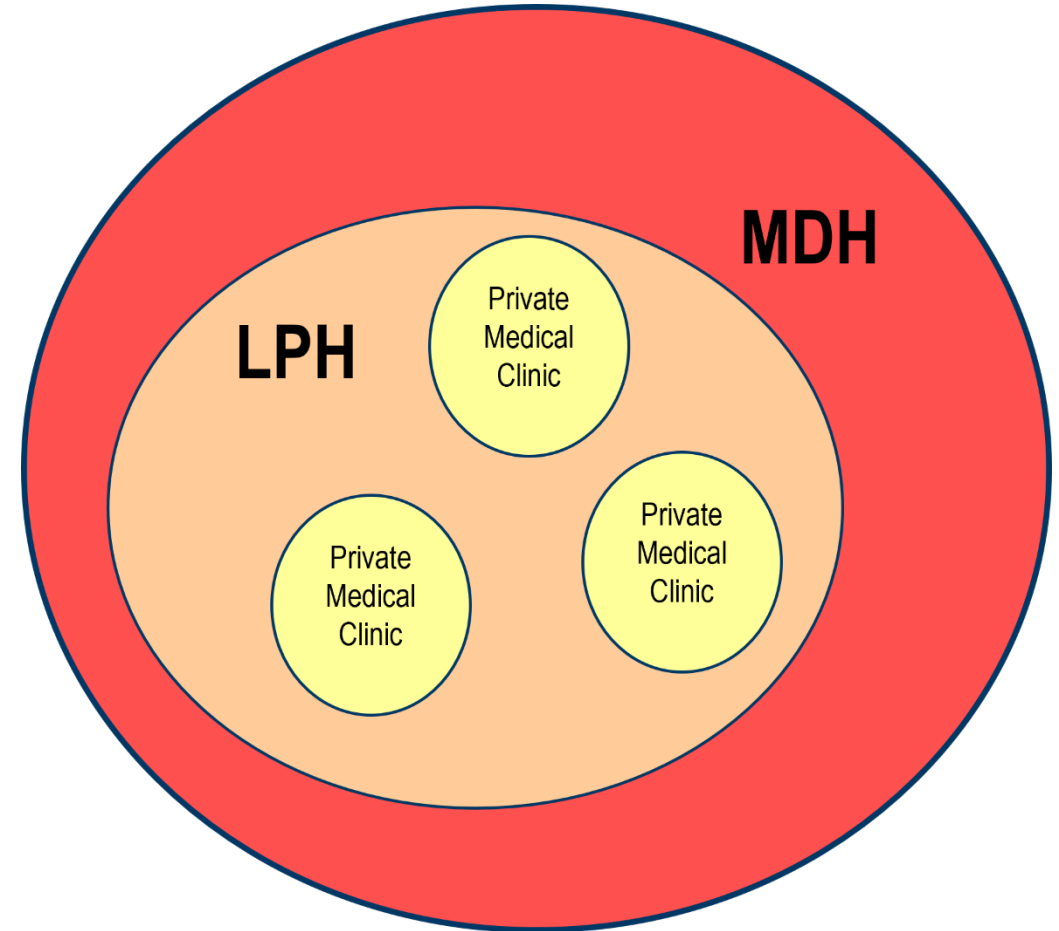
eSHARE is an application used to conduct disease surveillance by collecting demographic data and screening results in various refugee and immigrant populations.

By logging on eSHARE, you are acknowledging that you are an authorized user, that you are bound to comply with the signed agreement for the privacy and security terms, and that you will abide by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13 and the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.



# Minnesota's Jurisdiction-Based Data Access Rights using eSHARE

- Statewide data available to state level users
- Local public health and clinic level users only access and view records in their specific jurisdiction.



# Minnesota Refugee Health Program: Contact Us

**Phone:** 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414

**Email:** [refugeehealth@state.mn.us](mailto:refugeehealth@state.mn.us)

**Website:** [Refugee Health \(www.health.state.mn.us/communities/rih/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/rih/index.html)

**Address:** Minnesota Department of Health

Refugee Health Program

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