



Communiqué

Fifth Meeting of the Council, Migrant and Refugee Health Partnership

22 September 2020

The Council of the Migrant and Refugee Health Partnership held its fifth meeting via videoconference on 22 September 2020.

The meeting featured an appearance by Professor Michael Kidd from the Department of Health. Professor Kidd provided an update on the Department of Health's ongoing efforts to engage migrant and refugee communities, while members shared their perspectives on key areas of concern during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members discussed the applicability of lessons learned during COVID-19 to future public health emergency management; in particular the need to build not only health literacy but health systems literacy.

Members discussed the impact of stigma, discrimination and racism on help-seeking behaviours, highlighting how fear has prevented some individuals from migrant and refugee communities from getting tested for COVID. Incidents of racism and discrimination experienced by health workers was also highlighted by members.

Members also raised the need to develop a long-term strategy to sustain changes made during COVID into future public health emergency management.

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