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Helping Children Outside Our Walls: Building on Past Successes to Develop an International Response Capability for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) strives to be a world leader in children's healthcare by integrating excellent patient care, innovative practices, and a commitment to the local and global community. In the past three years CHOP has advanced this mission by developing a strong response capability for emerging events. CHOP's successes stem from a continuing process of building upon existing relationships and past successes.

In March 2021, CHOP partnered with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) and the city school district to develop, coordinate, and staff six vaccine clinics and vaccinate over 19,000 school and daycare personnel against COVID-19. CHOP then targeted harder to reach areas via 88 community clinics, vaccinating 6,600 additional residents. The effort was lauded, receiving the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Response Innovation Award.

In August 2021, Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) became the second, and later sole, entry point for Afghan evacuees under Operation Allies Welcome (OAW). OEM asked CHOP to assist with OAW due to its close working relationships developed during vaccination efforts. CHOP volunteers led by the CHOP Emergency Preparedness (EP) Team's Medical Director conducted initial medical screening, testing, and vaccination for all incoming evacuees at PHL. The EP Team created an internal taskforce to coordinate response efforts at PHL, CHOP campuses, and the Safe Haven base.

In March 2022, due to the successful partnership between CHOP and Global Response Management's (GRM) Medical Director during OAW, GRM invited the EP Team's Medical Director to serve as the Pediatric Medical Director for a mission to support Ukrainian refugees in Poland. The EP Team quickly set up a taskforce to streamline response, leveraging the models using during the COVID-19 and OAW operations, and created an International Travel Safety and Medical Response Plan in preparation for deployment.

Presentation Theme: CHOP's successes and ability to build an international response capability stem from a continuing process of building upon existing relationships and past successes.

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