



The MRC Reporter

Newsletter for the
Sonoma County Medical Reserve Corps

Program Updates

Greetings, MRC volunteers!

We are so pleased to provide you with the first newsletter for our volunteer program! We have designed this newsletter to keep our volunteers informed about MRC activities and upcoming events.

Save the Date: The first annual **full-scale exercise** for the Medical Reserve Corps will be held on Saturday, November 13th. Details about this important annual MRC training event are on page 3. I encourage all trained volunteers to **sign up today!**

We have been busy this year planning this full-scale exercise along with other activities, including the recruitment of non-medical support staff volunteers. We are also preparing to conduct regional meetings with the goal of developing regional teams aligned with specific dispensing sites located throughout the county. These

Message from the Deputy Health Officer

On behalf of Dr. Mary Maddux-Gonzalez, Health Officer for Sonoma County, and myself, thank you for your interest in the Medical Reserve Corps. A special welcome to all those who attended our orientation and submitted volunteer applications. The Medical Reserve Corps couldn't exist without your enthusiastic volunteer participation.

At present, we have a total of 350 trained MRC volunteers: 43 physicians, 25 phar-

meetings will be an opportunity for you to meet other MRC volunteers and to learn how you will work together in your local community.

And we haven't forgotten about our volunteers who were unable to attend the orientation trainings held this past spring. We are gearing up for our next round of orientation classes, to be held in Fall/Winter 2004.

Also in this issue: The Frequently Asked Questions on page 3 include information about the volunteer notification system, and the Online Training Opportunities lists websites where volunteers can obtain additional public health preparedness-related training.

Best regards,
Gabrielle Trubach, MA
MRC Coordinator

macists, and 282 nurses. Volunteers have come forward from all parts of Sonoma County. Many are retired and many are still actively pursuing careers as health professionals.

We here at Public Health look forward to a long and rewarding experience getting to know you and working with you.

Sincerely,
Leigh Hall, MD

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The MRC Reporter is Live!

You can now access
The MRC Reporter
online!

www.sonoma-county.org/mrc

For volunteers who use email, you will receive an email notifying you that the latest issue is available on our website. We will continue to send printed newsletters to volunteers without email addresses.

Electronic distribution of the newsletter results in cost reductions to our volunteer program, makes us more environmentally friendly, and allows quicker access to information about activities and upcoming events.

We encourage all volunteers to obtain a free web-based email account. It's simple to use, easy to access, and is a great tool for receiving up-to-the-minute information about the MRC!



Do you have a question about the MRC program? Email it to us at:

dhs-mrc@sonoma-county.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How will I be notified during an emergency to report for my assigned duties at my assigned location?

A: The California Health Alert Network, or CAHAN, is the notification system for MRC volunteers. This system is designed to broadcast prioritized warnings of impending or current disasters to enable health officials to provide disaster response services to the public.

CAHAN is capable of sending alerts by email, telephone, fax, alpha pager, and cell phone. These alerts are prioritized as High, Medium, and Low. When volunteers are called to assigned duties, a High alert will be issued by CAHAN to notify you and give you more information.

Detailed information about the implementation of this notification system will be sent to trained volunteers in Fall 2004.

Q: What contact information do I need to provide for the notification system?

A: A user profile will be entered into the CAHAN system for each volunteer, and will indicate which method each prefers for notification. Depending on preference, the volunteer will provide home phone, work phone, work email, home phone, cell phone, alternative phone, or alpha pager contact information.

Q: What information will I receive when I report to duty at an event?

A: Volunteers will receive a thorough orientation when reporting, including risk assessment, a position checklist, medication dispensing information, and information scripts, so they can educate and orient people as they come through the dispensing site.

Q: During an emergency event when medical prophylaxis is going to be distributed, will volunteers receive the prophylaxis first?

A: Yes.

Q: What additional training events will be offered to volunteers?

A: Volunteers will be asked to participate in the Fall 2004 full-scale exercise, held on November 13th in the form of an actual flu clinic. Volunteers will provide mass vaccination services using the dispensing site model developed to address surge capacity during a public health emergency.

In addition, volunteers are encouraged to obtain disaster-related training online. A list of online training resources is on page 3 of this newsletter.

MRC Reporter Staff

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Deputy Health Officer

Volunteers in Action

Thank you to our MRC Volunteers **Rosalie Candel**, LVN, and **Rosa Altamirano**, RN, who joined **Ann Baechler**, RN, in providing prevention information about West Nile Virus at the Cinco de Mayo Health Fair at Finley Center on May 2nd. Rosalie and Rosa quickly got up to speed on the basics of **West Nile Virus prevention**, and eagerly explained the “4 D’s” to interested attendees:

DRAIN standing water around the house; it's where mosquitoes lay their eggs.

DUSK & DAWN are when mosquitoes that carry the virus are most active; so limit outdoor activities.

DEET is an effective ingredient to look for in insect repellents.

DRESS in long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk or in areas where mosquitoes are active.

Save the Date: Fall 2004 Full-Scale Exercise

The first annual full-scale exercise for the Medical Reserve Corps volunteer program will be held on **Saturday, November 13th**. As mentioned in the MRC Orientation class, this exercise will be conducted in the form of an actual flu clinic, where we will vaccinate adults and children.

This full-day clinic is designed to test the volunteer notification system, dispensing site model, and logistics. Participants are required to have current licensure to administer vaccine. However, there are many other non-vaccine related functions that require staffing by MRC volunteers. We anticipate conducting a planning meeting with volunteers prior to the clinic.

Our full-scale exercise is held once a year, so we encourage your participation in this event. **Sign up** for this important training by **completing the reply form** on page 4, and mailing it **no later than August 31st**. You can also sign up by **visiting our web-site** at:

www.sonoma-county.org/mrc

If you have any questions, you may contact us at 565-4412.



Online Training Opportunities

Ongoing training is critical to improving public health preparedness in our community. The following resources offer a variety of online training opportunities that promote public health preparedness against bioterrorism and other public health threats.

Please direct questions about these opportunities to the host institution.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/training/index.asp>

Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Preparing for and Responding to Bioterrorism: Information for Primary Care Clinicians

<http://healthlinks.washington.edu/nwcphp/bttrain/cme/>

Source: University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

Preparing for and Responding to Bioterrorism: Information for the Public Health Workforce

<http://healthlinks.washington.edu/nwcphp/bttrain/>

Source: University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

Surge Capacity and Health System Preparedness

<http://www.hsrnet.net/ahrq/surgecapacity/>

Source: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Public Health Preparedness Resource Center

<http://www.asph.org/phprc/>

Source: Association of Schools of Public Health.

Related Websites:

State MRC Coordination

www.emsa.ca.gov/dms2/medical_reserve_corps.asp

Federal MRC Guidance

www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Federal Citizen Corps

www.citizen corps.gov/programs/

Community Emergency Response Teams

training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CERT/

Sonoma County Red Cross

www.sonomacounty.redcross.org



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Newsletter for the
Sonoma County Medical Reserve
Corps

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Santa Rosa, CA 95404-4428

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Website: www.sonoma-county.org/mrc

Full-Scale Exercise Sign-up

To participate in the **Fall 2004 Full-Scale Exercise** on **Saturday, November 13th**, please complete this form and mail it to us at:

Sonoma County Medical Reserve Corps
625 5th Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Or sign up online at our website:
www.sonoma-county.org/mrc

Additional information will be provided prior to the exercise.

Yes, I will participate in the Fall 2004 Full-Scale Exercise.

First Name, Last Name, Credential

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone Work Phone

Alternate Phone Email Address

Update Your Profile

Has your **contact information** changed recently? Please to let us know how to reach you by completing this form, and mailing it to us at:

Sonoma County Medical Reserve Corps
625 5th Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Or update your contact information online at our website:
www.sonoma-county.org/mrc

First Name, Last Name, Credential

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone Work Phone

Alternate Phone Email Address