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MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS
VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Madison County Health Department (MCHD) Receives National Award for Outstanding Sponsoring Organization for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

“The Outstanding MRC Sponsoring Organization Award honors MRC Sponsoring Organizations that have served as an exemplary host agency to their MRC and have successfully supported and helped integrate the MRC into their local community’s public health, preparedness, and response infrastructure.”

MCHD leadership and staff received this honorable MRC national award on June 2, 2020 because of their continued commitment to fostering the identity and growth of the Madison County MRC while helping to sustain the support and enthusiasm of existing volunteers. They are the reason our MRC unit is able to continue to prepare in order to protect and promote the health and welfare of Madison County residents.

The Madison County MRC was established on November 3, 2005. This November, we will be celebrating our fifteenth year as an MRC unit. We have grown to 453 members and have expanded our unit’s role from emergency response to also engaging in opportunities to promote emergency preparedness and other health and wellness initiatives in the community.

Since the beginning, MCHD has been a constant source of support. We thank the health department and all of our MRC Volunteers for helping us build the strength and resiliency of our unit.
COVID-19 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

We thank you so very much for helping us share the public information that the health department has been disseminating to help spread the word about important public health messages. By doing so, you have played a significant role in helping us prevent Coronavirus (COVID-19) from spreading markedly within our community. Please continue to look at our frequently updated Madison County Health Department website https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/health/index.php. You can subscribe for Page Updates to be notified when the page changes. Instructions and guidance relevant to Madison County will come from our health department. Please follow our website www.madisonchd.org and our social media pages https://www.facebook.com/MadisonCHD/ and be alert to emails and messages from us. Additional information is also available on the Madison County https://www.facebook.com/Madison-County-Illinois-Government-571295049720939/ and the Madison County Emergency Management Agency https://www.facebook.com/MadCoEMA/ Facebook pages.

We have engaged three MRC Volunteers more directly in specific duties within the Public Information Section including COVID-19 Research (Becca Chausse), Social Media Monitoring (Katie Venvertloh), and Reviews of the Literature (Georgia Schefft). To date, these volunteers have contributed 75 hours.

Another volunteer (and former MCHD Health Protection Division Manager), Mary Cooper, is helping provide guidance to Long Term Care Facilities. To date, she has contributed 36 hours.

Beginning June 1, 2020, eight MRC Volunteers, Dana Jarvis, Michelle Mwangi, Valerie Griffin, Angela McDowell, Katie Venvertloh, Sherri Reed, Laura Hamilton, and Jessica Halvorson,

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COVID-19 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES (cont)

(Sherri, Laura, and Jessica are brand new volunteers — welcome!), have provided assistance with checking in individuals coming to the Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation COVID-19 Testing Site in Wood River. To date, they have contributed 81 hours. We will be looking for volunteer help at the testing site, again, during the month of August.

We are so very grateful for everyone’s help and generous offers to help with this COVID-19 response effort. We will continue to send out volunteer opportunities as they become available.

BADGES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

We wanted to let you know that we are in the process of researching a new, more user friendly badging system for our MRC unit. Badges would be printed onsite at exercises, activities, or emergencies. This would help reduce expenses and solve lost and out-of-date badging problems.

As you know, it is essential that we have your most up-to-date contact information so that we can reach you for routine matters and in the event of a public health emergency. You can ensure that we have your correct contact information by calling Cathy Paone (618-296-6096) or emailing her at cmpaone@co.madison.il.us. Please include your:

- Current name (include former name if your name has changed)
- Current mailing address
- Preferred email and
- Cell and home phone numbers.

Having current contact information is especially important at this time as we anticipate continued MRC Volunteer involvement in this pandemic response. Thank you!

“The interior joy we feel when we have done a good deed is the nourishment the soul requires.”

Albert Schweitzer
**READY.GOV**

**IMPORTANT SUMMER INFORMATION**

To help you prepare for the summer:

- [https://www.ready.gov/heat](https://www.ready.gov/heat)
- [https://www.ready.gov/severe-weather](https://www.ready.gov/severe-weather)
- [https://www.ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning](https://www.ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning)
- [https://www.ready.gov/power-outages](https://www.ready.gov/power-outages)
- [https://www.ready.gov/floods](https://www.ready.gov/floods)

**CodeRED** is an ultra-high-speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications such as evacuation notices, bio-terrorism alerts, boil water notices, chemical spills, and missing child reports. The service also allows consumers to opt-in for weather warnings.


Those without Internet access may call the Madison County EMA office (618-692-0537) Monday through Friday (8:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M.) to register over the phone. Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors in Madison county.

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**GATEWAY VOLUNTEER NETWORK**

Help us get the word out to the entire IL and MO bi-state region about the Gateway Volunteer Network!!!