



Public Health
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Board of Health Sidney-Shelby County

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Contact: Kathy Cavinder, RN, Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Medical Reserve Corps Seeks Volunteers

The Sidney-Shelby County Health Department would like to invite practicing and retired health professionals and others interested in volunteering service to join the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of West Central Ohio. On March 15, 2018, from 4:00pm until 6:00pm, the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department will be holding an open house at the Health Department, 202 W. Poplar St., Sidney, OH, to help the community learn about the MRC.

A MRC unit is a community-based, organized group of volunteers who can serve during a local public health emergency. Tornadoes, floods, natural disasters, and bioterrorism incidents all need volunteer help. Volunteers, willing to serve the community, will have the opportunity to attend educational programs and specialized training in disaster response free of charge.

After the events of September 11, 2001, it became clear to all Americans that many unforeseen emergencies could occur which might overwhelm existing local response efforts. Any disaster response, large or small, begins locally. So, by design, all Medical Reserve Corps units are based locally. The program's foundation is built on the concept that communities can help themselves, by organizing volunteer response efforts from within and before incidents occurs.

Being prepared to handle an emergency is a challenge for any community. But, when a community is truly prepared, residents will be able to move quickly to minimize disability, death, and emotional trauma resulting from an incident. Health Commissioners from all participating Health

Departments in West Central Ohio want to educate and train a group of volunteers so that when an emergency occurs, they will be able to move quickly to address the needs of their communities.

Participating counties in the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of West Central Ohio include Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble and Shelby counties.

Medical Reserve Corps volunteers may include, but are not limited to practicing, retired, or otherwise employed health professionals, such as doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, physicians' and nurses' assistants, public health officials and others who are willing to provide support services.

Volunteers are needed for both emergency and non-emergency roles. During a disaster, volunteers might be asked to help staff an emergency vaccination clinic or drug distribution site. During times of non-emergency, volunteers will receive at no charge emergency preparedness education and training and have the chance to serve as local public health ambassadors. Some activities might include assisting with flu clinics, providing education sessions on special topics, and promoting immunization campaigns.

Residents can volunteer or learn more about the MRC by attending the open house scheduled at the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department on March 15, 2018 from 4:00pm until 6:00pm. If attending, please RSVP to Kathy Cavinder at kathy.cavinder@shelbycountyhealthdept.org or by calling the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department at (937) 498-7249. Additional information about the MRC and emergency preparedness may be found on the Health Department's website at:

<http://shelbycountyhealthdept.org>.