



News and Notes From the MRC

Winter 2008

The Franklin County & Columbus Medical Reserve Corps (FC&C MRC) is dedicated to establishing teams of professional and medical volunteers to contribute their skills and expertise during disasters, as well as throughout the year for community health promotion. More info can be found at our web site at www.volunteermrc.org.

New Web Site and Online Orientation

The Franklin County & Columbus Medical Reserve Corps (FC&C MRC) is moving into the technological age with a new web site, www.volunteermrc.org, and online orientation course. On our web site you can now check out training opportunities, upcoming events, read archived editions of our newsletter and learn more about our volunteer program.

One of the key features of the new site is the new online orientation course opportunity for busy volunteers. Starting in January 2008, volunteers may either attend an in-person orientation session, or complete the online orientation session. This makes our team a more flexible Corps of responders. We now have the in person sessions for those that are able to spend an evening to meet other volunteers, and an online version for those with computer access (with speakers) and a need for a more

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MRC Volunteer Amy Irvin helps out at our 2007 Flu Clinic

Flu Clinic Exercise a Success

FC&C MRC Nurses and non-medical volunteers helped out on November 26th for our 2007 Franklin County Board of Health Influenza Clinic. Our volunteers helped to prevent the spread of the flu virus in Franklin County!

This Flu Clinic provided our disaster preparedness team with an opportunity to review materials that might be used in a disaster response where injections were necessary. Our volunteers gave feedback about those materials, and helped to design the response for Franklin County. A big thank you to the volunteers that helped out with our 2007 Flu Clinic event in Grove City this year. Your dedication helps us all!

FC&C MRC Launches POD Team

Franklin County & Columbus MRC would like to extend an invitation to all volunteers that have completed an orientation session to join the growing team of POD Team volunteers! A POD, or Point of Dispensing, is a method of response in a public health crisis requiring the widespread distribution of medication. In the event of such an emergency, multiple PODs may be set up throughout the community to offer medication to many people.

Clinical volunteers such as pharmacists, nurses, paramedics, mental health professionals and physicians are highly encouraged to join the POD Team. As always, non-clinical members of the community are also an important component of the FC&C Medical Reserve Corps, and play a large role in the POD action! To run a successful POD, many skills will be needed. Those volunteers with traffic control, computer, data entry, management, reception and other skills will be needed in a response.

POD Team members will complete a short online training, still in the process of being created, and will also participate in our drills and exercises. The FC&C MRC is planning several large POD Exercises over the next few years, and your help with

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FC&C MRC In-Person Orientation Session

Completing a FC&C MRC Orientation session is an important aspect of volunteer involvement. The article on the first page of this newsletter about our new web site describes our online training, but if you are interested in meeting some of the other volunteers and participating with us in an in-person setting, learning about activation procedures, and getting ready to volunteer for the MRC, then please come to our next in-person Orientation Session:

Thursday, February 21, 6-8pm
Franklin County Board of Health, East Conference Room
280 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215
Please RSVP to rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov by February 17

Volunteer for a POD Drill Jan 30-31



In the event of a disaster requiring the distribution of large amounts of medicine to the public, the health department will open one or more Points of Dispensing, or PODs. All MRC volunteers in the region are invited to participate in the Level One Screening/Dispenser POD Drill on January 30-31 at Columbus Public Health, 240 Parsons Ave, Columbus, OH. The drill will include an overview of personal protective equipment and updates about the Columbus & Franklin County POD plans and MRC structure.

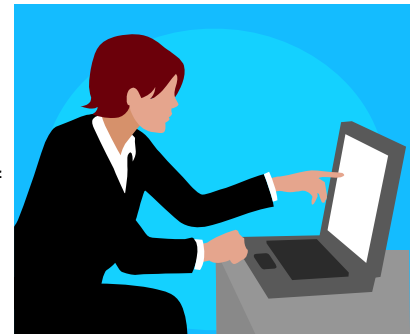
We will need volunteers during the following times to help out, play patients, and give feedback: 8:30-11:30am or 12pm-3pm on either Jan 30 or 31. New volunteers or those without medical backgrounds are especially encouraged to volunteer their services, but as with all MRC trainings, any community member dedicated to public health is welcome! Please volunteer for ONE of the time slots. The same drill will be run four times over the course of the two day schedule. Please email

rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov with "POD DRILL" in the subject line of your email, and your name, email address, phone number, and time slot you are volunteering for in the body of the email. Thanks!

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAMS

TECHIE TEAM

Do you have audio visual or computer talents? If you do, then the MRC needs your help with the Mobile Joint Information Center. This mobile unit enables Public Health to use in a response effort anywhere within the Central Ohio Region. The trailer has TVs, satellite dishes, computers, generators and other communications equipment and we are looking for a few good volunteers with the interest and skill to be a part of our Techie Team. Participation would require at least four hours of training/set up practice, as well as the ability to serve on the team during one deployment per year. Non-emergency deployments include exercises or large events such as the state fair. This team may also serve other technological needs at a medication center during a disaster. NEXT VOLUNTEER SESSION IS MARCH 20. EMAIL MRC@FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV FOR DETAILS.



LANGUAGE TEAM

Are you fluent in another language in addition to English? Are you willing to volunteer to help with language capabilities during a disaster, as well as throughout the year to support community preparedness? We would love to have you serve on a language team! We are focusing on Spanish, American Sign Language and Somali at this point, but please let us know about any language capability you may have. **Send an email to rlfranz@franklincountyohio.gov to join.**



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flexible orientation time. All volunteers taking the online course will need to come in to the FC&C MRC office to allow county officials to check wallet license cards, driver's licenses and have a photo taken. Your badge will be mailed to you. If you are interested in completing the online orientation, please send an email to mrc@franklincountyohio.gov with the words "online orientation" in the subject line, and a username and password will be emailed to you. Please remember, an orientation is a requirement for all MRC volunteers. Thanks for your support and participation. Please visit us on the web at www.volunteermrc.org.

(con't) POD Team

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these endeavors as a POD Team member is appreciated. Leadership positions at the PODs will first be offered to our POD Team members and MRC Leadership Level volunteers.

POD Teams are being organized throughout the country, as all communities plan for disasters requiring medicine distribution. Thanks to the federal Cities Readiness Initiative program, Columbus and Franklin County have been funded to develop plans and obtain resources for these POD sites.

-By Erin Shaffer



Other Resources and Trainings

- The Franklin County & Columbus MRC is a part of the Ohio Citizen Corps system. Check out the state's most recent newsletter at www.serveohio.org/CitizenCorps/newsletter/07dec/.
- BE ON THE LOOKOUT! The FC&C MRC is organizing a free **Psychological First Aid** class for March 2008, most likely on a Saturday. It is a four hour course, and covers great information about mental health in a disaster for all types of providers. An email will be on the way soon. We hope you can join us!
- The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus will be hosting **Foundations of Disaster Mental Health (FDMH)** on Saturday, February 23rd from 9am to 5pm. FDMH furnishes licensed mental health care professionals with the basic knowledge needed to function as Red Cross mental health care workers. The course introduces participants to the various psychological interventions employed by Red Cross volunteers in response to the needs of people across the entire continuum of disaster preparedness, response and recovery. It also addresses the legal and ethical issues that emerge for mental health workers in a disaster setting. Participants can receive 6.5 hours of CEUs for the successful completion of the course. The CE processing fee is \$20.00 per participant. For more information, please contact Vira Rattanakhom at 614-253-2740 x 2540 or rattanakhomv@usa.redcross.org.
- The Center for Public Health Preparedness and Disaster Response invites you to participate in the Department of Homeland Security funded and approved disaster preparedness course, electronic **Core Disaster Life Support (tm)** (eCDLS(tm)). CDLS is a nationally recognized all-hazards course designed to increase emergency responder awareness of basic skills, competencies, knowledge, and resources that are critical for a coordinated and effective local emergency response effort. The electronic version, eCDLS, allows first responders the flexibility to access this important training when and where it is convenient for them. By completing the course you may earn up to a maximum of 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. Prospective participants should email Suraj Madoori at ecdlsipilot@ama-assn.org for information.