

The SWVA POINT

News for SWVA Medical Reserve Corps



H1N1 is still with us....

Even though it appears that the novel H1N1 virus has declined, in fact flu activity in Virginia has increased from sporadic to local over the past several weeks. All local health departments are continuing to host community clinics and offer the vaccine each day at their local offices.

The Medical Reserve Corps was extremely active across the state with H1N1 activities. According to State Health Commissioner Karen Remley, "Over 2,000 Virginia MRC members faithfully served their communities and played a key role by augmenting local health department operations since April 2009". The health departments which support the Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps were all recipients of this volunteer service.

The service of SWVA MRC volunteers will be celebrated during the last two weeks of April with several volunteer appreciation events. These events will recognize those volunteers who assisted with H1N1 activities and all members who provided service and time with other activities during the past year. SWVA MRC volunteers participated in local exercises, assisted with public health fairs, responded during the December 2009 snowstorms and helped the Volunteer Coordinator with new member recruitment and orientation. All of these activities are necessary to ensure the continued growth and development of the SWVA MRC unit.

Please look at the scheduled events to the right and feel free to join the SWVA MRC members in this time of celebration and appreciation. Give Kristina Morris a call at 276-274-0555 for details.

The SWVA MRC appreciates everything the members do to improve and increase the service of this organization. We look forward to working with all of the members on more volunteer activities during the coming year.



Happy Easter



Monday, April 19th
4:30—6:30 p.m. Washington Co. Comm. Services Building, 15068 Lee Hwy, Bristol

Thursday, April 22nd
Noon—1:15 p.m., Mountain Empire Community College, Phillips-Taylor Hall, Room 126, Big Stone Gap

Thursday, April 29th
4:30—6:30 p.m. Carroll Co. Gov't Complex, 605 Pine Street, Hillsville



Kristina K. Morris, Volunteer Coordinator
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Spring has Sprung!!! and with it many training and volunteer opportunities have popped up. If you need additional information on any of the events listed below, contact Kristina Morris at 276-274-0555.

Thurs. April 8th, 9—Noon @ Russell Co. Conf. Center in Lebanon: Healthy Appalachia Health Summit

Sat. April 10th, 9—Noon @ St. Paul Methodist Church, Wytheville: The National Kidney Foundation Free Health Screening. [Volunteer Opportunity](#)

Tues. April 13th, 9—4 @ Valley View Freewill Baptist, Clintwood: Free Health Fair sponsored by The Health Wagon. [Volunteer Opportunity](#)

Wed. April 14th, 9—4 @ WEO Church in Hurley, Free Health Fair Sponsored by The Health Wagon.

Thurs. April 15th, 9—4 @ Kid's Central in Norton, Free Health Fair Sponsored by The Health Wagon. [Volunteer Opportunity](#)

Sat. April 17th, 9—2 @ Mnt. Empire American Red Cross in Bristol: CPR Saturday. \$10.00 per class

Mon, April 26th—Tues. April 27th, Wise Co. Health Dept., Wise: ICS 300:Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents

Tues. May 4th & Wed. May 5th: Health Fair at SWVA Mental Health Institute in Marion. [Volunteer Opportunity](#)

CBERS (Community-Based Emergency Response Series) N-95 Respirator Fit-Testing for Health Care Practitioners and First Responders will be offered on the following days:

Tues., June 8th, 1:30—4:30 @ UVA-Wise in Wise

Wed., June 9th, 9—Noon @ Oxbow Center in St. Paul

1:30—4:30 @ Tazewell Co. Health Dept in Tazewell

Thurs., June 10th Time and Location To Be Confirmed

July 23, 24, 25—Remote Area Medical (RAM) at Wise County Fairgrounds in Wise. [Volunteer Opportunity](#)

The Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps had an exciting 12 months. Since we first heard about "Swine Flu" in April 2009, our members have been extraordinary in their willingness to help their local health departments. During some of the more difficult times, I learned valuable lessons in coordinating volunteer responses and have identified areas where there is room for improvement. The response and the support that I have seen from our members since last April has been so gratifying.

Your hard work is paying off and our unit is considered a partner in the emergency response and preparedness community. I am now frequently receiving requests for your services in the community and I am pleased that so many of you are able to help. I look forward to another outstanding year of volunteer service from each of you and to hearing from you on ways we should always be improving our organization. Fondly, Kristina

Virginia MRC FAST FACTS:

- 31 Units in Virginia
- Over 10,400 members
- More than 1,000 volunteers joined during the last quarter of 2009
- Over 2,000 members assisted with H1N1 activities around the state
- Estimated monetary value of volunteer service to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2009, \$750,000
- Virginia MRC members responded to tornados, snowstorms, flooding, NASCAR events, seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccination events, homeless population outreach, rabies prevention and a wide-variety of public health outreach events.

VVHS (Virginia Volunteer Health System) is the web-based volunteer management system where your volunteer contact information and activities are stored. If you have never checked your information, please try to do so at least once a quarter. If you need your **User Name, Password** or the **website address**, contact the Volunteer Coordinator @ swva.mrc@vdh.virginia.gov.

