

SERV-OR Bulletin

Issue #15: Standby for the Call...

September 3, 2021

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Volunteer Opportunity: Medical Surge Deployment **NEW**

By Sophie Miller-Desart

September is **National Preparedness Month**. As many of you know, or are directly experiencing in your day-to-day lives, the rise in COVID patients these past few months has led to a statewide hospital capacity crisis. Now, more than ever, we need *everyone* to prepare for the call.

At present, there is an urgent need for healthcare personnel to deploy to hospitals, long term care facilities, and EMS agencies to reduce care ratios, staff burn-out and staff attrition. Currently, licensed Nurses, EMTs, Paramedics, Physicians, Physicians Assistants, Behavioral Health providers, Pharmacists, Medical Imaging Techs, Respiratory Therapists, and additional licensed health professionals may be needed to deploy in support of state and local response efforts.

Click here to sign up for our standby roster for medical surge deployments. Those on standby receive a weekly availability survey for urgent staffing needs in Oregon (lodging, meal, and travel reimbursement is provided if traveling over 70 miles). You will be screened and contacted if you cannot be placed on the standby list for any reason.

Visit your SERV-OR profile as soon as possible to provide us with accurate information such as your current employer, current trainings, and certifications, contact information and emergency contacts, and any other specialty or skillset that will help SERV-OR organizations contact and deploy you as strategically as possible.

Click below for recently released data on the current surge in Oregon:

OHSU Coronavirus Case Models

UPDATES COLUMN

Oregon's 2021 Volunteer Activity

Unit	Hours	Deployed Volunteers <small>Duplicative of members who deployed multiple times.</small>	Value of service
State Managed Volunteer Pool	7,368.5	676	\$210,297
Medical Reserve Corps	32,943	4,977	\$1,400,573
<small>Nothing new to report since last publication (6/4/21). The National MRC reporting system is undergoing migration.</small>			
Total Oregon	40,311.5	5,653	\$1,610,870

- ✓ COVID-19 Vaccine Facts can be found **here**
- ✓ Vaccination updates can be found **here**
- ✓ COVID talking points **here** (updated: 09/03/2021)
Subscribe to COVID-19 Health talking points
- ✓ **Request** a SERV-OR member badge
- ✓ We want to hear your **stories of service!**
- ✓ **Join our development team** and let us know ways we can improve the bulletin!
- ✓ **News** from the national Medical Reserve Corps office

Stories of Service: Shelters and Centers - the Critical Roles of MRC Volunteers **NEW**

By Renee' Menkens

The use of cooling and warming shelters to provide a safe place to get away from hot or cold weather and wildfire smoke is an important strategy for public health. Centers are typically day-only sites, while shelters can be for sleeping and/or for meals.

Crystal Williams, Program Coordinator for Marion County Emergency Management, reminds us that “the key to successful teams is finding those that are passionate about their roles and providing support.” Marion County cooling centers (day-only sites with snacks available) were critical during our hot summer days. MRC and CERT volunteers provided support to centers by collecting sign-in and contact data, temperature screening, cleaning, socializing, and implementing general COVID protocols. Some locations had areas for small children, where volunteers could tell stories or provide entertainment while parents rested nearby. Similar services were provided when assisting the American Red Cross during recent wildfires.



Volunteers at the snacks table at one of Multnomah County's cooling centers

Cesilee Fidler, Multnomah County MRC Coordinator, stated “Our MRC volunteers are critical to supporting the centers and shelters and the families and others who use these services.” Multnomah County used MRC volunteers for medical triage at their heating and cooling shelters and centers. MRC members triaged visitors for urgent medical, non-urgent medical, and first aid support. They were the first contact for individuals using the center, reassuring patrons, and recommending follow-up care as needed. Many families, as well as the unhoused, used these shelters to help make it through the exceptionally hot periods or for getting out of the smoke from wildfires.

Preparing for Mass Vaccination Event Deployment **NEW**

By Paul Kaplan

Read OHA's COVID-19 Additional Doses FAQ (8/16/2021)

With the announcement that immunocompromised mRNA-vaccinated Oregonians have Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to receive a booster/third dose, counties may be considering reactivating for mass vaccination events. Additionally, hosting agencies with current hospital capacity issues statewide, staffing resources are once again strained and SERV-OR may be called upon to step up as vaccinators in this next phase.

Be sure to make SERV-OR a safe sender (email) in your inbox so that volunteer opportunity requests don't go to your Junk Email file! To volunteer with SERV-OR at a mass vaccination clinic, you are required to review and submit the SERV-OR Training Attestations:

- **Moderna Training Attestation**
- **Pfizer-BioNTech Training Attestation**
- **Johnson & Johnson Training Attestation**

To learn more about these events, watch the [OHA Mass Vaccination Site and Role Orientation](#) video!

Feeling Burnout? Read This **NEW**

By Isna Waqas

These past few weeks have been overwhelming. This can make it hard to concentrate and take in everything that is going on, which may lead to neglecting to take care of your own wellbeing. Please remember that you are the most vital part of your team. We want to remind you to take care of themselves, take breaks, talk to your loved ones, stretch, go for walks, play your favorite music, and make time for activities that help you release tension and bring calm to your mind. Simple acts like this can help you feel more grounded when you are stressed.



And of course, continue taking precautions to keep yourself and your community safe from COVID-19. Simple steps like watching your distance, wearing your mask, limiting your gatherings, and washing your hands frequently can make a big difference!

Visit [Safe + Strong](#) for more resources, including how to contact the Safe + Strong Helpline and find information in languages other than English.

Online Training Modules **Updated**

Find training opportunities [here](#) which will be updated regularly. Please continue to check it throughout the month!

- The Project ECHO/HHS/ASPR COVID-19 Clinical Rounds have resumed. Check out their [website](#) and join their [mailing list](#), register for coming webinars, and view recordings. Free CE for live participation!
- FEMA Region 10 is hosting a "[Virtual Family Prep Night](#)." This is an interactive event aimed to include the entire family in talking about and preparing for disasters.
- For National Preparedness Month, FEMA is highlighting public service advertisements™ (PSAs) designed to resonate with Latino communities and beyond that will launch during [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

National Preparedness Month Weekly Themes

- Week 1: September 1-4: [Make A Plan](#)
- Week 2: September 5-11: [Build A Kit](#).
- Week 3: September 12-18: [Low-Cost, No-Cost Preparedness](#)
- Week 4: September 19-25: [Teach Youth About Preparedness](#)

You can also visit the [SERV-OR Trainings page](#) for links to the foundational training series for Disaster Medicine and Public Health Core Competencies, FEMA Incident Command courses, and more!

Volunteer and Job Opportunities **Updated**

- [Institution Registered Nurse \(Pendleton\)](#) part-time, Application deadline: 09/16/2021
- [Mental Health Therapy Technician \(Salem and Junction City Campuses\)](#) Full time, Application deadline 09/06/2021
- [Health Information Specialist \(Health Information Specialist\)](#) Full time, Application deadline 09/07/2021
- [RDPO Weekly Update](#), contains information on current job openings. (Application closing dates vary depending on week)
- [Oregon Health Authority State and County jobs](#) (Dates vary depending on openings)

- **Red Cross Disaster Health Services Volunteer Opportunity** The Red Cross is seeking Medical Professionals to support disaster response activities throughout Oregon this wildfire season. Disaster Health Services (DHS) Service Associates (SA) are assigned to work in-person before, during and/or after a disaster event this hurricane/wildfire season. **Find more information in the pdf attached.**
- For more volunteer opportunities, events, and petitions near you check out **Made to Save.**

SERV-OR FAQs: Vaccine requirements for SERV-OR Updated

Provided by Sophie Miller-Desart, Isna Waqas

- ✓ SERV-OR will comply with the temporary Administrative order Gov. Brown directed OHA to put in place that requires paid and unpaid healthcare personnel be fully vaccinated on or before October 18 to deploy as a volunteer.
 - OAR 333-019-1010 helps to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 by requiring health care personnel and healthcare staff who work in healthcare settings to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or request a medical or religious exception.
 - Tracking and compliance systems are not yet established
 - For more information:
 - **Governor Kate Brown's announcement on the statewide vaccination requirement**
 - **Ruling 333-019-1010**, COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for Healthcare Providers and Healthcare Staff in Healthcare Settings
 - **OHA Healthcare Provider and Healthcare Staff Vaccine Rule FAQs**
- ✓ **If you have not received your SERV-OR badge or need to change the information on your current badge, please use the following request form, linked below.**
 - **Please ensure that the information provided on the website is correct.**
 - **Click here to request a new or updated SERV-OR badge**

Contributors to this bulletin include Isna Waqas, Renee' Menkens, Jeff Rubin, Daniel Hughson, Paul Kaplan, and Sophie Miller-DeSart. Thank you so much to this team for all their efforts!

SERV-OR Mission

The mission of the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) and Oregon's MRC network is to ensure health and well-being, educate, and protect all people in Oregon by recruiting, registering, training, exercising, and deploying licensed volunteer health professionals to support local, tribal, and statewide public health initiatives, health, and medical needs during public health crises, and to improve access to preparedness education and resources for all individuals and communities.