

SERV-OR Bulletin

Issue # 17: Giving Thanks to Those Who Give Back

November 5, 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Expressing gratitude to SERV-OR NEW	1
Trusted Messengers: Preparing for Vaccinating 5-11 years old NEW ...	2
Monthly Highlight: Health Care Worker Support Project NEW	2
Stories of Service: COVID Medical Surge Responder Superstar NEW ...	3
Online Training Modules Updated	3
Volunteer and Job Opportunities Updated	4
SERV-OR FAQs: Confirm Verifying Vaccination Record Updated	4

Expressing gratitude to SERV-OR **NEW**

Provided by Sophie Miller-Desart

Did you know that November is National Gratitude Month? As we enter into the holiday season and recognize traditions as old as time across borders, cultures and belief systems, we want to take the time to thank you. The experiences of the last two years have tried and tested even the most resilient of us. It is no exaggeration to say that for many, compassion and wherewithal were depleted at times. And yet, so many found new energy through volunteer stories of service, community education campaigns that saved lives, innovative scientific breakthroughs, and at the worst of times, following the loss of a loved one to this viral and inscrutable disease. We hope that each and every SERV-OR volunteer feels deeply appreciated. We see you as brave heroes driving us toward recovery. Whether this makes you feel valued or possibly see it as a cliché, I truly want to thank you for your service to people in Oregon. You have made all the difference.

- **Sophie Miller-DeSart, SERV-OR Volunteer Manager, PHD, HSPR**

"The value of SERV-OR volunteers and their service goes beyond any dollar amount and is more about the bridges that are built with our communities and connecting health professionals with the mission to serve. SERV-OR volunteers through this pandemic have been invaluable and are the backbone of the response and represent resiliency within our communities that will move us into recovery and beyond."

- **Akiko Saito, MPH, MPA Deputy Director of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Unit**

"We continue to be astounded by the eagerness of the SERV-OR members to step up. Volunteers joined the first COVID missions at the airport and long-term care facilities, when the fear of what we were confronting was fresh. Since then, almost non-stop, SERV-OR members have volunteered to push back

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	9,116	695	\$184,232
Medical Reserve Corps	32,943	4,977	\$1,400,573
	<small>Nothing new to report since last publication (6/4/21).</small>		
Total Oregon	42,059	5,872	\$1,584,805

- ✓ COVID-19 Vaccine Facts can be found **here**
- ✓ Vaccination updates can be found **here**.
- ✓ COVID talking points **here**. (updated: 10/19/2021)
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

against the pandemic at every opportunity. Many times, they can take on missions that paid staff can't, or they show up with smiles and re-inspire some very tired staff."

- Eric Gebbie, DrPH, MIA, Interim Director of Emergency Operations, PHD, HSPR

Trusted Messengers: Preparing for Vaccinating 5-11 years old **NEW**

By Isna Waqas and Paul Kaplan

Approximately **40%** of Oregon's population is between ages of 5-11 years old. On November 2, 2021, the CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation that children 5 to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine. On November 3, 2021 Governor Kate Brown **approved** the use of the Pfizer vaccine for children in Oregon. The **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for 5–11-year-olds** will be a new product with new packaging and a new national drug code (NDC).

Oregon's final approved vaccination protocols are now published and ready for use.

- **Pharmacy Protocol**
- **Clinic Protocol**

This wave of a newly eligible population is expected to create a resurgence in demand for mass-vaccination sites. Some Oregon counties have begun engaging local and state SERV-OR organizations to assist at pediatric vaccination points of distribution. OHA Senior Health Advisors are establishing guidance for the State Managed Volunteer Pool regarding pediatric scope and training for vaccinators. Further guidance will be shared as it is available. County Medical Reserve Corps units may have jurisdiction specific guidance and training for members local units.



As Highlighted in the MRC InTouch newsletter from October 2021, The **National Resource Center** for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM) has developed a **video series** answering common questions parents have about getting their kids vaccinated. A **conversation guide** and a **fact sheet** are also available in multiple languages. The American Academy of Pediatrics has also **launched a new campaign** to help families understand the science of the COVID vaccines and prepare to protect their children against the virus through vaccination. You can also find the campaign toolkit **here**. Resources and videos are available in both English and Spanish. Sign-up for the MRC In Touch Newsletter **here**.

Monthly Highlight: Health Care Worker Support Project **NEW**

Provided by Sophie Miller-Desart

The Oregon Health Authority is launching a new program with SERV-OR to support those that have given so much to Oregonians – healthcare industry workers. The past two years have brought stark visibility to the sacrifice, compassion, and resilience asked of people working in health systems. However, the novel Coronavirus pandemic did not create this archetype, it intensified it.

The newly developing peer support project will deploy SERV-OR volunteers to hospitals and clinics across the state to offer virtual and in-person peer wellness sessions to all industry staff including

clinical, wrap-around services, facilities, and administrative personnel. OHA's Behavioral Health Senior Health Advisor, Dr. Meg Cary, is spearheading this initiative and intends for these sessions to be convenient, accessible, strengths-based, and culturally relevant opportunities for those seeking wellness to find it through a compassionate community of peers.

The work will be supportive and not clinical therapy. However, SERV-OR volunteers involved in the work must be current or formerly licensed/certified behavioral health professionals or individuals trained to administer trauma informed crisis behavioral health support services. There are currently 29 members signed up to participate in the initial planning focus groups to shape this program. These volunteers will then transition to the role of facilitating sessions with healthcare industry staff (onsite and virtual). Project orientations will begin early November.

Once again, we see the kindness and compassion of SERV-OR exemplified through community service, yet this time it is to the helpers who have given so much in return. We thank you.

Stories of Service: COVID Medical Surge Responder Superstar, Holly O'Dell, RN **NEW**

By Renee' Menkens

According to Holly, the COVID-19 pandemic was an "out of ordinary time." She saw an announcement from SERV-OR for nurses needed in Baker City. Holly had no idea where Baker City was as she works as the SAIF Vice President of Legal Affairs in Salem. She found out it is a 6-hour drive to get to St. Alphonsus Hospital in Baker City. Holly admitted that she had not been on a medical surgical unit for at least 20 years, but she was warmly welcomed by staff and administrators when she arrived. She had support from local family while she lived in a hotel in Baker City and continued to work her regular job online during the day while working night shifts at the hospital.

Holly's skills were badly needed as there were so many critically ill COVID patients, in addition to regular hospital patients. She was "totally terrified" but quickly learned where supplies were located, how to get medications, and to manage the learning curve of being a staff nurse again. She stated that "my horizon changed, it was about getting through the next hour – if I can show up, step in, and walk into my patient's room, I could do it." Holly had the mindset that if she was not in the room with her patients, no one would be there to care for them. "It was hard to do, but I felt it was the right time and I was really needed."



Holly O'Dell at St Alphonsus

Online Training Modules **Updated**

Weekly Monoclonal Antibody webinar with HHS

- To request Zoom links email COVID19Therapeutics@hhs.gov
 - Weekly Federal COVID 19 Response: Monoclonal Antibodies 101 Webinar
 - Fridays 9-10 am PT (Every other Friday)
 - Target audience: new administration sites and health officials
 - CDC Federal COVID 19 Response: Monoclonal Antibodies Office hours
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 am-noon PT

- Find more information on the trainings and Monoclonal Antibody therapy [here](#).

Webinar: The Public Health Workforce: Morale, Mental Health, and Moving Forward (pre-recording 10/6)

- Speakers address the ongoing challenges of dealing with misinformation, political divides and even harassment that the public health workforce has faced throughout the pandemic.

Training opportunities are updated regularly [here](#).

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

- **Physician Specialist- Oregon State Hospital (Salem)**- Full time, Application deadline: 11/28/2021
- **Psychiatric Social Worker- Oregon State Hospital (Salem, Junction City)**- Fulltime, Application deadline: 11/14/2021
- **Licensed Practical Nurse, Health Services Technician (Pendleton)**- Full time, Application deadline: 11/30/2021
- **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)
- For more volunteer opportunities, events, and petitions near you check out [Made to Save](#)

SERV-OR FAQs: Confirm Verifying Vaccination Record Updated

Provided by Sophie Miller-Desart and Isna Waqas

- ✓ **Where can I update my Vaccine Status?**
 - To update your vaccination status, please **login** to your account, click the Profile tab. Subtabs will drop down and you should select Deployment Preferences.
 - Click edit on that page and you will be able to update your status. The question will be under Willingness and Availability.
 - While confirming your information, please review the rest of your profile, particularly identity, contact, and licensure/cert sections for accuracy and completeness
 - **Do not email or upload your health records in the SERV-OR database. The system does not have security clearance to maintain protected health information.**

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.