



SERV-OR Bulletin

Issue # 24: Every Emergency is a Public Health Emergency

August 5th, 2022

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TRUSTED MESSENGER RESOURCES

hMPXV (human monkeypox virus) Updates
 Visit OHA's [hMPXV](#) page for resources and updated case counts in Oregon.
[7-21-22 hMPXV Community Listening Session](#)

[Interim Guidance for Obtaining Tecovirimat for hMPXV Patients](#)

COVID-19 Updates
[The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup](#) has authorized a single booster dose of

UPDATES COLUMN

Oregon's 2022 Volunteer Activity

Unit	Hours	Deployed Volunteers	Value of Service
State Managed Volunteer Pool	7,580.25	129	\$227,028.49
Medical Reserve Corps	3,902.5	842*	\$192,936.37
Total Oregon	11,478.5	973	\$419,837.57

**Duplicative of members who deployed multiple times.*

[Request](#) a SERV-OR member badge

We want to hear your [stories of service!](#)

[News](#) from the national Medical Reserve Corps office

View Oregon's COVID-19 Data Dashboards [here](#)

the pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 through 11.

[Subscribe](#) to COVID-19 Health Talking Points Emergency Evacuation and Sheltering During the Covid-19 Pandemic [here](#)

[What's New in Treatments and Prevention Therapies?](#)

[Rural Disability Hub for COVID-19 Vaccination Outreach](#)

Vaccines for children

[COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ: 6 mos – 17 years](#)

[Pfizer Fact Sheet](#)

[Moderna Fact Sheet](#)

[Side-by-side comparison chart](#)

[Click here](#) for 5-11 Boosters Clinical Resources

Flu Season '21 – 22 Updates & Resources

Visit [OHA's Flu Bites](#) resources page for the most up to date information on the 2022/23 flu season surveillance. Visit [CDC's Flu page for Health Professionals](#) for national resources and information.

Preparedness Training for Community-Based Organizations [here](#)

Wildfire Resources and Situational Awareness
[Oregon's current wildfire situation](#)

[ALERTWildfire](#) live fire cameras and tools to help firefighters and first responders

Interactive Map! Preparing for a **Public Safety Power Shut-ff:** [PGE](#), [Pacific Power](#)

hMPXV in Oregon. OHA is working on a new hMPXV (human monkeypox virus) website that will be more accessible and have additional resources available for the public, community partners, and local public health. We anticipate rollout next week.



Trusted Messengers: Novavax is Here!

Provided by the OHA Immunizations Program

[Novavax becomes fourth COVID-19 vaccine authorized by FDA](#) to protect against COVID-19 disease. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted the vaccine an emergency use authorization on July 13, 2022. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) then officially recommended the vaccine on Tuesday, July 19. Also on July 19, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup confirmed the CDC's recommendation.

As of July 28, Oregon has begun receiving allocations of the Novavax vaccine, but supply is initially limited. Oregon expects to receive 15,000-25,000 doses total.

Approvals & Fact Sheets The EUA was granted 7/13: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/novavax-covid-19-vaccine-adjuvanted>

- [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine](#)

- [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) (will be translated into 12 languages)

Novavax is a 2-dose vaccine, given three weeks apart. Each dose is 0.5 mL. In early 2021, it was found to be 90% effective against mild, moderate and severe disease in a trial of 30,000 people ages 18 and older. Although Novavax was not tested against current strains of the COVID-19 virus, experts expect it to offer significant protection against severe disease, as the other currently available vaccines do.

Novavax is considered a PRIMARY series vaccine and cannot be used as a booster dose for people who got a different kind of COVID-19 vaccine. No booster is currently recommended after 2 doses of the Novavax vaccine, nor is an additional dose recommended for immunocompromised persons.

The vaccine is easier to store than the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines — it can be stored at refrigerator temperatures for months.

[Click here](#) to continue reading.

Become a Newsletter Contributor!

Do you enjoy reading the SERV-OR Bulletin? Or do you have ideas to improve the periodical? The SERV-OR Bulletin Development Team is recruiting new members to join us in our effort to keep our 7,000+ readers informed and engaged!

Interested? [Let us know.](#)

When you join the development team you to bring your personal touch and expertise to the newsletter. All skills and specialties are welcome. Are you interested in raising visibility of the SERV-OR program, helping others to understand more about the state's health and medical response systems, expressing your creative storytelling side, promoting healthy equity to build more prepared communities? Maybe you are an engaged community responder, design minded, or a skilled type editor? [Join us.](#)

The Bulletin Development Team meets on the second Tuesday every other month from 11 – 12 PM. Members spend around 2-5 hours, bi-monthly, contributing to each issue. We look forward to hearing from you!

Stories of Service: Meet Coos County's New MRC Coordinator with Hometown Roots

Provided by Renee' Menkens, RN

Over the last year, the Coos County Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) position has seen several changes in staff. Cynthia Rodriguez recently joined the health department as the new PHEP Manager. She comes to us with a passion for Coos County as a local resident from a large family including parents, grandparents, and cousins. She became interested in the PHEP position while doing Covid tracing for the health department. She wanted to get more involved in public health and emergency preparedness and the PHEP position seemed like a good fit for her skills. Ms. Rodriguez notes that emergency preparedness is important in this area where a natural disaster, such as a Cascadia fault event, could happen at any time. Also, with climate change this coastal area has more opportunity for disasters, such as fires or floods. She has often heard that we are not prepared enough.



An important aspect of the PHEP role is to maintain partner relationships with state and community organizations, county emergency preparedness, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). As a focus over the next year, she indicates "It will be great to get more diverse people in the MRC. We need younger people of all ages and backgrounds to be involved. They can help us prepare better for potential disasters and response needs. Recruiting at events, such as local festivals, the county fair, the community college, and high schools are ways to encourage more people to be involved." Ms. Rodriguez brings a vision and enthusiasm to the PHEP role that are so important to the Southcoast region.

Fire Season is Here: Sign-Up to Volunteer With The American Red Cross Cascades Region

Provided by Susan Denavit, RN, American Red Cross Cascades Region

The [American Red Cross Cascades Region](#) is looking for more Disaster Health Services (DHS) and Disaster Mental Health volunteers to join our team this wildfire season! ARC is searching for licensed healthcare

professionals to provide assistance and health care to shelter residents. Required training is free and primarily web based. Continuing education credit is offered to nurses for some of these trainings.

For deployments within the region, these volunteer roles deploy on 10-day assignments (with two additional travel days) at least once per year. For those interested in regional deployments or are able to work in local shelters, the commitment may be one-off shifts up to a 7-day commitment within 50 miles of your home. Other opportunities are ongoing. Steady state responses ask only two 4-6 hour regional shifts monthly. Regional shifts are on-call in the event health needs arise after a disaster caused loss.

Unlicensed volunteers are needed too. The Red Cross has a number of additional Disaster Service opportunities for non-clinical volunteers (e.g.: Sheltering Team, Logistics Team, Disaster Action Team, Duty Officer/Dispatcher). The minimum commitment is 14 days for those interested in deploying nationally.

Questions about volunteering?

Medical opportunities: Redcrossnurse@redcross.org

Non-medical opportunities: cascades@redcross.org

Visit [Redcross.org/volunteertoday](https://www.redcross.org/volunteertoday) to complete the online volunteer application.

Region 1 MRC Alignment Project

Provided by Abby Morris, Washington County MRC

In May, the Washington County Public Health Emergency Preparedness department received an Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) COVID-19 Respond, Innovate, Sustain, and Equip (RISE) Award for \$75,000 through NACCHO, the maximum amount offered. This funding is supporting the Medical Reserve Corps Regional Alignment Project, a capacity-building initiative that seeks to centralize and align the administrative and maintenance management and oversight of MRC volunteers in the tri-county region (Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington County). This will enable all volunteers to be onboarded and managed through a streamlined process while allowing individual counties to oversee and deploy volunteers. The impact of this project will be the elimination of duplication of efforts of staff and volunteers in administrative oversight and adding capacity for strengthening training and engagement opportunities for MRC volunteers across the tri-counties.

Abby Morris was hired in April to steward this project. She has over a decade of experience in volunteer management in human services settings. In addition to being the lead for the Regional Alignment Project, she has also just begun coordinating the activities of the Washington County Medical Reserve Corps unit. She has enjoyed learning more about emergency preparedness while refining and building program processes. Abby will be supported in this transition by Cynthia Valdivia who has long nurtured the MRC to become the powerhouse of volunteers that it is now.

NACCHO Funding for Medical Reserve Corps COVID-19 Respond, Innovate, Sustain, and Equip (RISE) Awards

In February 2022, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) announced a competitive funding opportunity through its cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The MRC COVID-19 Respond, Innovate, Sustain, and Equip (RISE) Awards are intended to provide resources to the MRC network to support COVID-19 response efforts. This funding opportunity was open to **MRC units and state coordinators** with a clearly identified need and capacity to meet the intent of this funding.

The RISE project proposal request was innovatively flexible in comparison to past NACCO funding opportunities. The flexibility ensured these federal dollars would have the greatest impact for MRCs in recovery mode and help units to build back better after COVID.

Project proposals must align with one of the following categories:

- **Respond:** Build the capacity of a trained and ready corps of volunteers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Innovate:** Adopt technology and processes to support evolving volunteer management
- **Sustain:** Maintain the staffing and infrastructure needed to meet the operational requirements of the unit.
- **Equip:** Obtain supplies and equipment to support volunteer deployments and meet mission requirements.

In Oregon, seven jurisdictions were awarded RISE Funding. Here are brief descriptions of each proposed project.

State MRC Program Office's project supports Oregon MRC Network Standardization. Through collaborative planning with MRC Unit stakeholders this project aims to standardize key elements of MRC management across all units in Oregon. The purpose is to increase interoperability, accountability, and transparency for MRC programs and standardize volunteer training curriculum.

The Eastern Oregon MRC's Volunteer Training and Equipment Re-supply project focuses on restocking PPE exhausted from Covid and training volunteers to operate equipment stocking the MRC's mobile trailers. This equipment will help during responses in isolated areas and ensure continuity of operations during power and communications failures.

Linn County's MRC Interoperability Communications Project will increase the unit's ability to respond and recover from any All Hazard incident that impacts the county. The unit plans to purchase portable communication and tracking equipment with RISE funds. This project will support field communications

with local Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, and the Linn County Emergency Operations Center during any incident to which the MRC deploys.

The Tri-county Regional Alignment Project will centralize administrative management and oversight of three Medical Reserve Corps units in the tri-county region, while allowing units to maintain operational autonomy.

The Reshaping Columbia County MRC project will build capacity for a more sustainable unit and deployment training for volunteers. The project will be planned to align with the MRC Unit Factors for Success and 2021 Deployment Readiness Guide.

Marion County's Mobile First Aid Booth and Equipment Cache can be categorized as an Equip award. Purchasing supplies like a tent and first aid gear will allow the unit to have a fully functional First Aid booth that can be deployed to community events and emergencies.

Wasco County MRC's Equipment and Recovery Planning project will support much needed staff time, equipment and unit supplies needed for covid/pandemic response and recovery.

Virtual and In-Person Training

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

FEMA Independent Study & Webinars

- **Emergency Medical Response Awareness for CBRNE Incidents** Gain knowledge and practical experience in the triage and treatment of chemical, biological, radiological, or explosive (CBRNE) mass casualty events. [Learn more](#).
- [Apply](#). Continuing education credits offered.
- **Emergencies and Indoor Air Quality Webinar**

American Red Cross Independent Study

- **Disaster mental Health: Introduction**
A self-paced web-based course for individuals who are interested in becoming Red Cross Disaster Mental Health responders. [Click here](#).

In-Person Training

- August 20. **Moulage Artist Training**. 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. *Portland, OR*.
Learn the art of applying realistic mock injuries for training medical emergency response teams. [Register here](#).

Virtual Trainings and Webinars

- **Becoming Comfortable with Health Equity Concepts and Language**
Desmond Banks, PhD, MPH, and Susan Laird, DNP, MSN, RN, discussing CDC's commitment to health equity and provide tools to help all audiences understand the place of health communications in removing social obstacles that lead to poor health outcomes and health disparities. Closed captioning and an ASL interpreter will be available. *Continuing education will be offered.* [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **Getting Ready for Resilience**
The Northwest Center for Public Health Practice is launching a new self-paced e-learning series that focuses on a persistent challenge for many of today's public health teams, especially in the wake of multiple, intersecting public health crises—building greater workforce resiliency. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Conferences and Workshops

- October 27-28. **The National Pediatric Disaster Conference.** *Virtual.*
This event will examine joint response potential and novel resources among first responders, healthcare (including mental health), emergency management, business, nonprofits, military forces, and others using a catastrophic incident scenario to drive discourse. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Intermediate and Advanced ICS and Incident Specific training

- October 10-11. **MGT-417 Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers.** *La Grande, OR.* [Register via RuralTraining](#)
- October 13-14. **MGT-417 Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers.** *The Dalles, OR.* [Register via RuralTraining](#)

Visit the [SERV-OR Training 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

[OHA Board and Commission Member Opportunities](#) (multiple listed)

Become an American Red Cross Mental Health Volunteer [here](#).

[Oregon State Hospital is hiring](#)

New job postings from Healthcare News are listed [here](#).

[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](#)

Questions, comments, story ideas for the SERV-OR Bulletin?

[Fill out this Survey!](#)

Contributors to this bulletin include Isna Waqas, Renee' Menkens, Jeff Rubin, Paul Kaplan, Susan Denavit, Abby Morris, 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.

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