

SERV-OR Bulletin

Issue 11: Onward!

January 29, 2021

New Ways to Communicate **NEW**

By Jordana Leeb

This bulletin marks the 11th bulletin put together by SERV-OR to communicate with volunteers since the pandemic began. We have been committed to providing you up-to-date information on what is happening around the pandemic and sharing volunteer opportunities around the state. As Coordinator, I am grateful for the opportunity

to work with the SERV-OR Volunteer Bulletin team and to help put this document together. As of next month, I will be stepping away from the role and in my absence, the bulletin will be on pause until a new Coordinator is in place. In the meantime, please look for timely updates sent out through SERV-OR. Thank you and Onward!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- New Ways to Communicate **NEW**1
- Vaccine Distribution Volunteer Opportunities **NEW**.....1
- The Importance of Testing Continues **NEW**.....1
- Eastern Oregon MRC **NEW**2
- Online Training, TA, and Tool kits.....2
- Job Opportunities **Updated**3
- SMVP and MRC Roles Demystified **NEW**3
- COVID-19 Vaccine Trivia and Answers **Updated**4

Curious About Vaccine Distribution Opportunities? **NEW**

SERV-OR registered members are being asked to assist in COVID-19 vaccination events throughout the state. You can participate as an MRC (Medical Reserve Corps) member or as an individual through the SMVP (State Managed Volunteer Pool). Steps include:

1. If you chose to volunteer at these events, you are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination as a member of **Phase 1a, Group 4**. Contact your county health department for information on local vaccine sites.
2. **SMVP ONLY**. State volunteers are required to review this **Vaccinator Categories** document and check with your board to understand your vaccinator scope. SMVP must also complete the SERV-OR COVID-19 **Vaccine Administration Training Attestation**. MRC Units may be tracking training in a different way. Check with your unit admin to find out.
3. You can volunteer to give injections or assist with preparations, etc. according to your licensure and choice.
4. Tort Liability and Workers Comp. coverage is provided through the State during the Governor’s declaration of emergency.

The Importance of Testing Continues **NEW**

From Kassie Clarke, OHA Testing Branch Chief:

"Despite the delivery of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, it will take months to vaccinate enough of Oregon’s population to contain the spread of COVID-19. Robust and accessible testing for COVID-19 continues to be a key component of Oregon’s strategy to identify and slow the spread of disease and keep people who live in Oregon healthy."

To volunteer for OHA Testing Events in Oregon, complete this **screening tool** today!

Eastern Oregon MRC **NEW**

By Renee Menkens

Baker County seems far removed from the Cascadia disaster planning of Oregon’s western counties; however it has its own concerns. Floods, wildfires, and earthquakes have, at times, disrupted life in this beautiful area. The Eastern Oregon Regional (EOR) MRC has been busy with local disaster planning and COVID-related support for the Baker County Health Department. The EOR MRC has ninety volunteers serving the Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Wallowa, Grant and Baker counties.

Ray Denny, the EOR MRC Manager, shared that in April 2020, a few MRC volunteers were deployed to Umatilla County for a flooding disaster. Volunteers provided support to help evaluate the condition and medical needs of persons coming to the Pendleton Convention Center. The Center was set up to house the Red Cross and other agencies as they assisted persons displaced by flooding and helped those with emergency needs.

In May and June, MRC nurses and volunteers provided needed support to the Baker County Health Department for drive-through testing of individuals exposed to COVID-19. MRC volunteers also helped with traditional department duties and with additional COVID-related needs. This busy MRC received an Oregon Health Authority grant to increase PPE inventory. The grant also provided for a medical tent and a second MRC trailer to hold the PPE inventory for deployment. These EOR MRC volunteers are crucial additions to local agencies as they prepare for any disaster in this part of the state!



Baker City COVID screening and intake

Online Training Modules, Technical Assistance, and Toolkits

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

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!

Job Opportunities Updated

- **Oregon State Police: Program Analyst 3** - Emergency Response Planner OSP21-0012. (posted 01/22/2021, deadline 02/04/2021).
- **Debris Manager**: AC Disaster Consulting, multiple locations in Oregon. (listed 01/22/2021; no deadline listed).
- **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)

SMVP and MRC Roles Demystified NEW

By Sophie Miller-DeSart

Have you ever wondered, what is the difference between SMVP and MRC volunteers in SERV-OR? If so, you are not alone!

State Managed Volunteer Pool: The group of SERV-OR volunteers managed at the state level. It accepts volunteers with an active state-issued health care certification/license and previously certified/licensed healthcare professionals whose credentials lapsed fewer than 10 years ago and were in good standing at expiration. SMVP membership is alerted of statewide volunteer opportunities in the event of a Governor's declared emergency or an impending public health crisis. Volunteers may be deployed to fall under a local or Tribal jurisdiction for disaster support and/or deployed by OHA for a state managed operation. All health care volunteers with an active or lapsed (within 10-years) state-issued health care credentials are eligible and encouraged to join this group, as well as a local MRC.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC): The mission of the **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical, and other volunteers. MRC units are community-based and function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers who want to donate their time and expertise to prepare for and respond to emergencies and promote healthy living throughout the year. MRC volunteers supplement existing emergency and public health resources. MRCs are managed by a local organization that is affiliated with the national MRC office, usually, though not exclusively, a local county health department, emergency management office or hospital/hospital system. Their membership may be alerted about volunteer opportunities in the event of a locally declared emergency or a state or Federal requirement. Many MRCs have regular local meetings, social opportunities, as well as non-emergency volunteer opportunities. Each unit sets its own volunteer policies. Most units require volunteers to possess an active state-issued health care provider license, while a few will accept non-medical members. Some units accept volunteers from outside their host jurisdiction. Learn about Oregon MRC units and their requirements by visiting the national **Medical Reserve Corps** site and choosing Oregon from the state drop-down list. You can also view the minimum licensure and jurisdiction requirements for each MRC when you start the registration process at SERV-OR.org.

Universally, you must be mission assigned and deployed by one of these organizations to volunteer. Do not self-deploy! If you are notified of an opportunity, wait for official instructions to mobilize prior to responding.

Trivia **Updated**

Provided by Jeff Rubin

All questions are True/False and all refer to the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines.

1. If you receive your first dose of Pfizer vaccine and follow it up with a dose of Moderna vaccine, you're good to go.
2. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use diluent, but in different proportions.
3. Total dose volumes for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are the same.
4. All recipients should be observed onsite for at least 15 minutes after each injection.

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

Trivia Answers **Updated**

1. False: the two mRNA vaccines are different and there is no current evidence on mutual compatibility.
2. False: the Moderna vaccine does not use diluent; the Pfizer vaccine uses special normal saline diluent **that is provided with the vaccine.**
3. False: dose volumes = 0.3mL for Pfizer and 0.5mL for Moderna.
4. True: *at least* 15 minutes; those with potential for anaphylaxis should be observed onsite for 30 minutes.

More COVID-19 Vaccine Facts can be found [here](#)

Contributors to this bulletin include Paul Kaplan, Dan Hughson, Renee Menkens, Jeff Rubin, Carmen Ionescu, Jordana Leeb, and Sophie Miller-DeSart. Thank you so much to this team for all their efforts!