

Medical Reserve Corps Newsletter

Mass Dispensing Exercise

Health Department staff, along with MRC Volunteers carried out the agency's first oral dispensing drill last Wednesday at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. It is estimated that more than 132 people came through the clinic and "antibiotics" were dispensed for 222 people. The scenario assumed that anthrax had been intentionally released somewhere in Douglas County. Our goal was to get medication to as many people as possible in a short amount of time, just like we would have to do in a real emergency. In a real situation, the first people to receive medication would be our first responders and their families. As MRC volunteers, you would be able to receive medication for yourself and family before the general public. We realize that most people are unlikely to help out in such a situation unless they know their families are safe. The participants in the drill included Douglas County Public Works, Fire and Medical folks, the Sheriff's Office and the

American Red Cross and Emergency Management.



MRC Volunteer **Byron Edmonson** visits with Clinic Division Supervisor, Health Department Nurse, **Maria Ana Garza** during "just in time" training.



MRC Volunteers **Kim Schwartz** and **Janice Poull** collaborate with Health Department Nurses at their station.

MRC Core Competency #2

Document that the MRC member has a personal and family preparedness plan in place.

Knowing what to do in the case of an emergency is an important part of being prepared. It is imperative to have your own preparedness plan in case of an emergency or a situation where you may not be able to reach your home or you are confined to your home. I encourage you all to have an emergency supply kit full of extra personal items, medications and food items stored away in your homes. It is also important for you and your family to know how to reach each other or where to meet if there was an emergency. In some circumstances it may be easier to make an out-of-town phone call than to call across town. Have an out of town contact person that can help with communication between separated family members. There are several good resources available to look at. I suggest www.ready.gov and www.redcross.org. Contact Kellie if you have any questions.



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Upcoming Events

Volunteers Needed!

- **Kansas Ironman Competition, June 15, 2008, 6:45 am through early afternoon. Volunteers and Physicians Needed! Contact Kellie to volunteer.**
- **Interested in a Psychological First Aid training? Let me know if you prefer weekdays/weekends, one long course or two shorter courses.**

2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference

“Prepared Volunteers, Resilient Communities, Strong Nation”

I was thrilled to have the opportunity to attend the 2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference this year in Portland, Oregon. The conference was held at the beginning of April and lasted three and a half days. As you can imagine, it was packed full of great information and great presenters including Steven K. Galson, Acting Surgeon General of the United States—who, by the way, was kind enough to pick up and return my pen that I happened to drop right in his path as he was exiting the room!



A view overlooking the Columbia River.

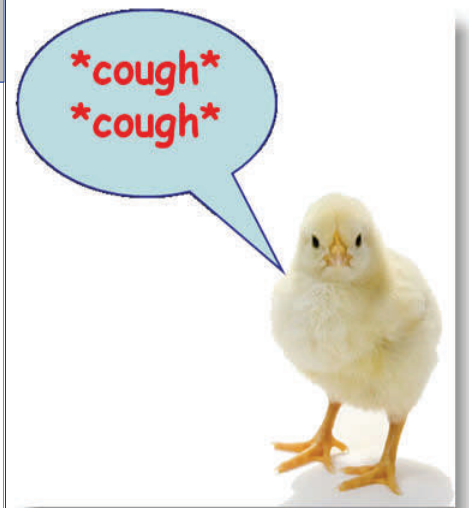
The conference provided a lot of useful information. The areas I chose to concentrate on included motivating and engaging volunteers, sustainability, trainings and promotion/marketing. I am looking forward to integrating new ideas and finding ways to better our unit. I am always open to suggestions from volunteers, so feel free to contact me any time to discuss your suggestions. I also learned that a plan is underway to be able to deploy willing MRC volunteers outside of their local jurisdiction as part of a federal response to public health and medical emergencies. I will keep you all updated as more information unfolds. If this is something you might be interested in, I suggest you complete your ICS 100 and 700 training and watch for future trainings that may be useful to you.

Avian Flu Update

The Institute of Medicine issued a report which stated that the U.S. government will need to expand its stockpile of antiviral drugs if the goal is to have enough doses to treat all patients and provide preventive treatment for some others at risk in an influenza pandemic. The United States currently has about 71 million treatment courses of antivirals in federal and state stockpiles, with a goal of 81 million courses. But in a pandemic, it might take more than twice that amount to treat sick patients and offer preventative doses to people at risk for exposure on the job.

Numbers and Statistics (since 2003):

Total Cases: 382 Total Deaths: 241 Mortality Rate: 63%



MRC Update

- **Catherine Holman** helped out at Kansas Fitness Day on May 3 on the KU campus. Thank you for your help, Catherine!
- **Cathy Rooney, Rhettta Noever, Janice Poull, Kim Schwartz, Catherine**

Holman, Myra Strother, and Byron Edmonson all assisted with our mass dispensing exercise on May 7, where they performed various duties. Thank you all for your help in this important drill!

- **Catherine Holman** partici-

pated in the Lawrence Helmet Fair on May 10. Thank you, Catherine for all of your help!

