

# Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps

## National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. September 2010 is the seventh annual NPM. This year will focus on encouraging Americans to work together to take concrete actions toward emergency preparedness.

Flooding, record and near-record snowfall, severe storms, severe winter storms, straight-line winds and tornadoes affected both Douglas County and Kansas in 2010. These events illustrate the potential devastation to communities and highlight the importance of pre-planning disaster response and sheltering operations.

## Pledge 2 Prepare Campaign

Douglas County Emergency Management is pleased to announce its continued participation in National Preparedness Month. Douglas County Emergency Management encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare themselves and their families for emergencies or disasters that may affect their homes, businesses and communities.

New this year, will be an online awareness campaign available through the Douglas County Emergency Management department website and social media networks. Douglas County residents can learn about individual and family preparedness as well as support the "Pledge 2 Prepare" campaign. By committing to complete at least one act of preparedness during the month of September, individuals and families can demonstrate their commitment to being prepared.

Simply go online to the Douglas County Emergency Management website at [http://douglas-county.com/depts/em/em\\_home.aspx](http://douglas-county.com/depts/em/em_home.aspx), or find the link available on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/dgcoem](http://www.facebook.com/dgcoem) or Twitter [@dgcoem](http://twitter.com/dgcoem).



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### Volunteer Positions Needed

- **Social Media Specialists** needed to support social media properties (Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, etc.) of Douglas County MRC, including daily monitoring, posting, and content development.
- **Database Manager** needed to support volunteer management system, including contact information maintenance, scheduling, activity tracking, and interests and skills assessments.

### Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Health Department, second floor. We'll participate in The Hats and The Cones Teambuilding Activity.

### Volunteer Appreciation Event

November— more information to follow. Email [cbryan@ldchealth.org](mailto:cbryan@ldchealth.org) if interested in helping to organize the event.

## Event Volunteers Needed

### LMH Health Fair 2010

Saturday, 9/18/2010, 7:30 - 11 a.m.  
Lawrence Memorial Hospital  
Two volunteers needed to staff MRC information booth.

### Douglas County Free Dental Day 2010

Friday, 9/24/2010, 7 - 10 a.m.  
Douglas County Dental Clinic, 316 Maine Street, Lawrence  
Two volunteers needed to monitor parking lot usage, answer questions and assist people with their paperwork.

### Preparedness Fair

Saturday, 9/25/2010, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Douglas County Fairgrounds, Building #21  
Six volunteers needed to facilitate front door table along with door prize contest, staff MRC information booth and help with setup and takedown.

### Kickin' It With WIC

Monday, 9/27/2010, 2 - 6:30 p.m.  
Health Department  
Three volunteers needed to fill water jugs, help with check in, staff activity booths and help with setup and takedown.

### Bert Nash Dash & Bash

Saturday, 10/9/2010, 4 p.m. start time  
Downtown Lawrence at Seventh & Massachusetts  
Unlimited volunteers needed to register for the Bert Nash Dash and join other Health Department staff to walk 5 km.

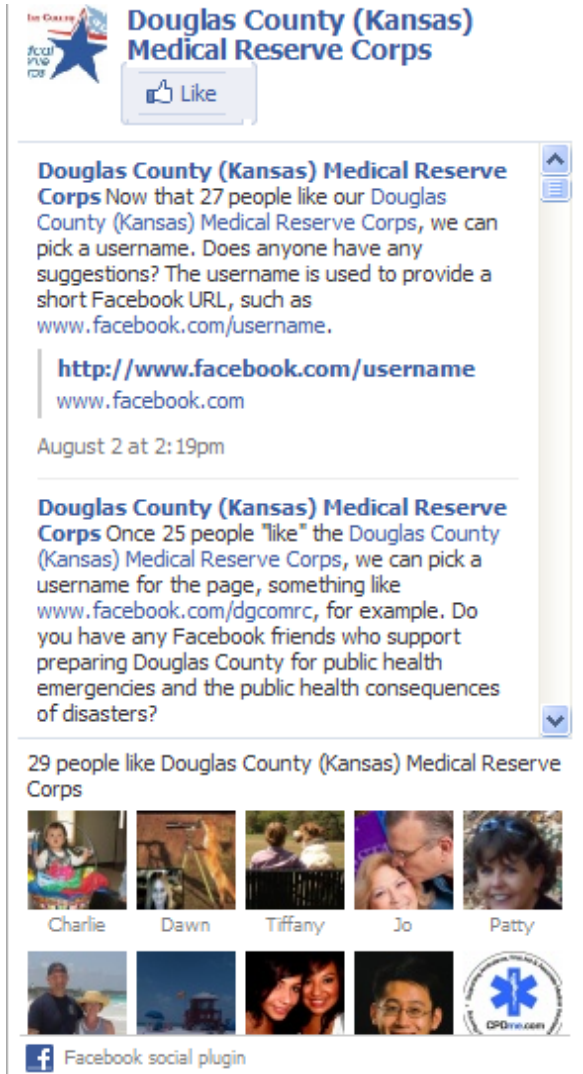
### Public Health Emergency Exercise

Saturday, 10/16/2010, morning  
Location and time TBA  
15-20 medical and non-medical volunteers needed to support drive through vaccination clinic operations.

### Emergency Information Center Exercise

Wednesday, 10/20/2010, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Lawrence Public Library  
Four volunteers needed to learn call center setup and operational protocols for the Douglas County Emergency Information Center.

## Find us on Facebook



**Douglas County (Kansas) Medical Reserve Corps**

Like

**Douglas County (Kansas) Medical Reserve Corps** Now that 27 people like our Douglas County (Kansas) Medical Reserve Corps, we can pick a username. Does anyone have any suggestions? The username is used to provide a short Facebook URL, such as [www.facebook.com/username](http://www.facebook.com/username).

<http://www.facebook.com/username>  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

August 2 at 2:19pm

**Douglas County (Kansas) Medical Reserve Corps** Once 25 people "like" the Douglas County (Kansas) Medical Reserve Corps, we can pick a username for the page, something like [www.facebook.com/dgcomrc](http://www.facebook.com/dgcomrc), for example. Do you have any Facebook friends who support preparing Douglas County for public health emergencies and the public health consequences of disasters?

29 people like Douglas County (Kansas) Medical Reserve Corps

Charlie Dawn Tiffany Jo Patty

Facebook social plugin



## 1 on 1 Trivia Preparedness Theme Show

Sunflower Broadband's Channel 6 will air a special preparedness-themed edition of [1 on 1 Trivia](#) with host, Andy Morton. The show was taped on Thursday, September 9, at Bigg's Barbecue.

## Douglas County Preparedness Fair



Join us for the Fourth Annual Douglas County Preparedness Fair 9-11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 25. It will be held at Building #21 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds (2110 Harper St., Lawrence). The fair will feature games, a kids table, interactive and informational booths from local agencies on emergency preparedness and door prizes. There will also be presentations on fire safety, basic first aid and a severe weather presentation from **Matt Elwell** of **Channel 6**.

## Radiation Response Volunteer Corps (RRVC)

Kansas Radiation Control Program announces the formation of a Radiation Response Volunteer Corps (RRVC). The program seeks volunteers willing to perform population monitoring during incidents involving radiation. Volunteers would have the opportunity to receive training, participate in drills and serve as a resource in the event of a radiological incident.

### Radiological Incidents

A nuclear/radiological incident may result from a deliberate act, an accident or general mismanagement and may center around different materials or industrial practices, including:

- ◆ Commercial nuclear facilities
- ◆ Federal nuclear weapons facilities
- ◆ Radioactive material sources, industrial uses, or technologically enhanced, naturally occurring radioactive material
- ◆ Transportation incidents involving nuclear/radioactive material
- ◆ Domestic nuclear weapons accidents
- ◆ Foreign incidents involving nuclear or radioactive materials
- ◆ Terrorism involving facilities or nuclear/radiological

materials, including use of RDDs or INDs

### Population Monitoring

Population monitoring is a process that begins soon after a radiation incident is reported and continues until all potentially affected people have been monitored and evaluated for

- ◆ Needed medical treatment
- ◆ The presence of radioactive contamination on the body or clothing
- ◆ The intake of radioactive materials into the body
- ◆ The removal of external or internal contamination (decontamination)
- ◆ The radiation dose received and the resulting health risk from the exposure
- ◆ Long-term health effects

### Learn More

To learn more about the Radiation Response Volunteer Corps (RRVC) development, visit the website at <http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/index.html>. Or contact the RRVC team at [ibusenitz@kdheks.gov](mailto:ibusenitz@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-8286.

## 9/11 Drill Down for Safety

Efforts to educate and train in disaster preparedness have been developed through government and numerous safety organizations—especially since 9/11.

The 9/11 Drill Down for Safety initiative was created to improve readiness and resiliency, and lessen the devastating impact of disasters on individuals, their communities, and the Nation. The goal is to encourage individuals to conduct emergency drills at home, work and in their communities. Medical Reserve Corps volunteers have an opportunity to be at the forefront of this program by participating and promoting involvement in the event.



This year, the organizers of Drill Down for Safety, [Safe America](#), created **Text First. Talk Second.** to raise public awareness around the importance of utilizing text messaging for non-emergency communications during a disaster.

When disasters strike, voice networks can become congested with people trying to call each other for non-vital communications. This can result in people in desperate need of help being unable to contact those they need to reach, such as emergency services, friends or loved ones. In some instances, this may also result in emergency service personnel being unable to communicate with each other.

So, as part of the initiative this year, Safe America is encouraging a national "texting drill" to test the collective ability of Americans to simultaneously react using telephone and wireless devices. The goal is to have people make a quick 'text' to family members and others who would be important for them to reach in an emergency. It is becoming better understood that 'texting' may become the first form of communications in a disaster – replacing voice communications (which may not be generally available).

**Text First.**  
**Talk Second.**

## Ask Your Doctors and Nurses to Get the Flu Vaccine This Year

*An Op-Ed Column by Jason Eberhart-Phillips, MD*

*Kansas State Health Officer*

Every doctor, nurse and other health care professional knows that the first rule of medical care is “to do no harm.”

The ethical obligation to safeguard patients from unintended illness or injury is imbedded in the Hippocratic Oath, the moral compass that has guided the practice of healing arts for more than 2,000 years.

That’s why it is so puzzling that about half of all health care professionals today don’t bother to protect themselves and their patients against influenza by getting the annual flu vaccine.

Even during last year’s flu pandemic – the global outbreak that caused more than 12,000 deaths in the United States – only 37 percent of US health care professionals said they got the additional H1N1 flu vaccine, according to a new report.

What’s going on here?

Virtually none of these highly trained professionals would think of approaching a patient with unwashed hands that could transmit infectious agents. None would blithely permit their patients to be exposed involuntarily to tobacco smoke or other toxins that could lead to cancer or heart disease.

Yet after 30 years of irrefutable evidence that flu vaccines are safe and effective in protecting patients, tens of thousands of health care professionals decline to receive them each year. Despite intensive education campaigns every year to get health care staff immunized in most hospitals and large clinics, such voluntary efforts rarely achieve more than 70 percent coverage.

Studies have shown that health care professionals turn down flu vaccines for the same reasons that other people do. They have doubts about their risk of getting infected, or their need for the vaccine. Some question how well it really works or express concerns about side effects.

Some just don’t like getting injections.

Frankly, this is appalling. Health care providers should know better than this by now. And they should set a better example for their patients and their communities in the coming flu season by getting themselves in line for the new flu vaccine as it comes on the market in Kansas in the next few weeks.

It has been well established that flu vaccination of health care professionals lowers patient risk and saves lives. When health care staff members are immunized against influenza, they are much less likely to transmit the flu virus to their elderly and other high-risk patients, some of whom may otherwise die from the disease.

There is also strong evidence that an immunized health care workforce has less absenteeism during the annual winter peak in community flu cases. This allows hospitals and clinics to keep more qualified staff on duty when the demand for care is highest, and to keep down the cost of care.

So we all benefit when doctors, nurses and other members of the clinical team do the right thing and get themselves immunized against the flu.

That’s why it may be time for patients and other concerned Kansans to give the health care professionals in our lives a good-natured reminder about the importance of getting the flu vaccine this year. A gentle word coming from you may be just what some hesitant doctors and nurses need to roll up their sleeves and get the vaccine.

This year’s vaccine – which will cover both the H1N1 strain and the common seasonal strains – promises to be available in abundant supplies. And, according to new national guidelines, virtually everyone over 6 months of age is recommended to get the vaccine.

There is simply no good excuse for a doctor, nurse or other health care professional not to be immunized against the flu this year. This is a critical patient safety issue, a matter that goes to the heart of every health care professional’s obligation “to do no harm.”

Dr. Eberhart-Phillips is the Kansas State Health Officer and Director of Health in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. He can be reached at [jeberhart-phillips@kdheks.gov](mailto:jeberhart-phillips@kdheks.gov). Go to his blog at: [www.kdheks.gov/blogs/dr\\_jasons\\_blogs.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/blogs/dr_jasons_blogs.htm).

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*“Only 37 percent of US health care professionals said they got the additional H1N1 flu vaccine...”*