



Albany County Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Newsletter

MICHAEL G. BRESLIN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JAMES B. CRUCETTI, MD, MPH
HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Volume 19

April 2011

The Albany County Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Newsletter is designed to keep our volunteers informed about Albany County's emergency preparedness efforts, volunteer training opportunities, and pertinent emergency preparedness news.

MRC Volunteers Needed to Participate in End Game Exercise

The Albany County Medical Reserve Corps will partner with the Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) to participate in "End Game" a full-scale exercise sponsored by the New York State Department of Health. The MRC will play an important role as ACDOH tests its ability to accept, store and distribute Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) assets; and dispense mass prophylaxis at Points of Dispensing sites utilizing both medical and non-medical dispensing models.

On Monday, May 15, 2011, ACDOH will receive notification that a [Category A](#)

agent has been released in our community. ACDOH staff will monitor the progression of the disease and request SNS assets through the County Emergency Manager. Assets will be delivered to the County's SNS receiving site and redistributed to POD sites May 23-24, 2011. On Wednesday, May 25, 2011 a closed POD staffed exclusively with MRC volunteers will be operationalized. This POD will test the non-medical POD model where trained, non-medical volunteers will dispense medication. A similar POD will be activated that afternoon by ACDOH staff with MRC volunteers acting as patients.



As part of this drill, we will conduct an ACCESS notification drill on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 to assess volunteer availability as if this was a real event. Volunteers will receive an ACCESS refresher sheet prior to the notification drill.

Please consider participating in the Wednesday, May 25, 2011 drill. Click [HERE](#) to register. Your participation will be confirmed once staffing needs have been identified.



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For More Information:

Contact Sue Riedy
(518) 447-4590

Susan.Riedy@albanycounty.com

ACMRC
175 Green St.
Albany, NY 12202

A Note from Our Intern!

My name is Jamie Marcella. I am a senior at Russell Sage College currently interning with the Albany County Medical Reserve Corps.

The New York Department of Health is requiring all Medical Reserve Corps units in New York State to update incomplete volunteer profiles in the ServNY database. Albany County MRC has 231 incomplete profiles to date. If these records are not updated, they will be removed from the system, leaving only 342 volunteers to assist Albany County in the event of a public health emergency.

It is my job to contact each volunteer with an incomplete record and assist them in updating their profile. To date, I have personally been in contact with 46 volunteers and successfully guided them through the completion process. I have left the remaining volunteers voicemail messages. It only takes 5-10 minutes to review and update your information. Please contact me or Sue Riedy, Albany County Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, at 518-447-4590 Monday-Friday between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm for assistance. We look forward to assisting you with this process.

If you would prefer to update your profile on-line, please visit [SERVNY](#). You will need your user-id and password to access your account. Should you have problems accessing your profile please contact the Commerce Accounts Management Unit (CAMU) Helpdesk at 866-529-1890.

We ask that you update and complete your profile by whatever method is most convenient. It is vital to the MRC and the people of Albany County to have a cadre of volunteers willing and able to assist in a public health emergency.



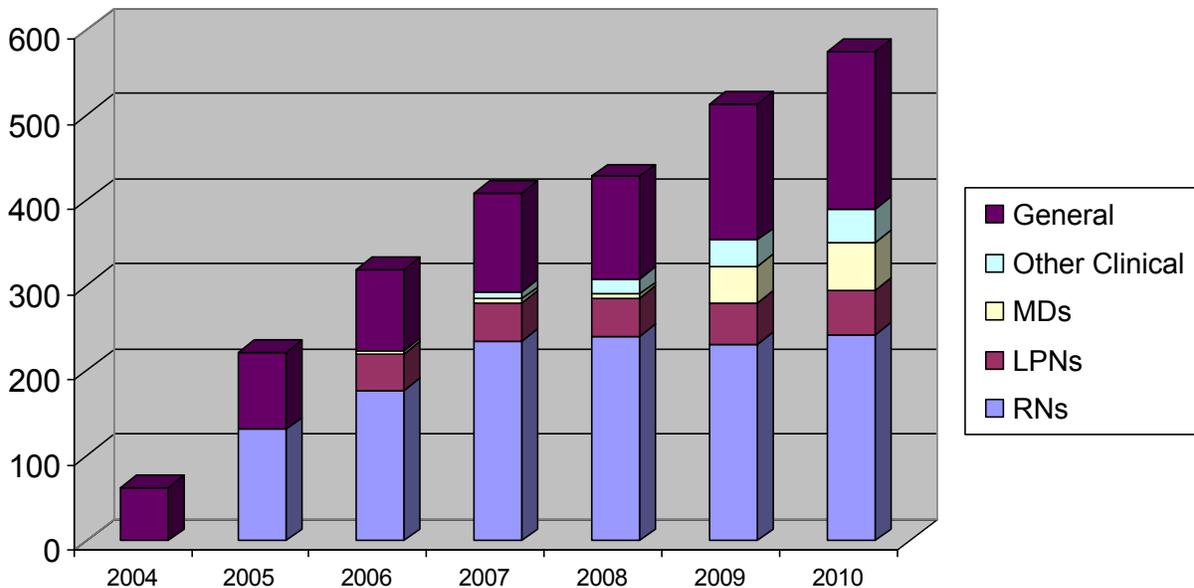


The Albany County Medical Reserve Corps is Growing!

Since its inception in 2005, the Albany County Medical Reserve Corps has almost tripled the number of volunteers available to assist in a public health emergency. Through continued recruitment efforts, the Albany County MRC seeks to increase it's volunteer roster by twenty-five percent by December 31, 2012. Please consider recruiting family, friends, and colleagues to join the MRC!

	RN	LPN	MD	Other Clinical	General
2004	0	0	0	0	63
2005	131	0	0	0	90
2006	176	43	4	0	96
2007	235	44	5	8	116
2008	240	45	5	18	120
2009	231	49	43	30	160
2010	242	52	56	40	185

MRC Volunteer Recruitment By Year





HHS Launches New Consumer-Focused Immunization Website

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services today unveiled an innovative new website to help parents and other consumers learn about the most effective way to protect themselves and their children from infectious diseases and learn about immunization. Vaccines.gov brings together the best in federal resources on vaccine and immunizations to provide consumers with easy-to-understand health information specifically for their needs.

"Vaccines.gov puts the power of prevention at the fingertips of all Americans," said Dr. Howard K. Koh, HHS Assistant Secretary for Health. "We urge everyone to visit this site and learn more about how vaccines can protect the health of each family member as well as the entire Nation."

Vaccines.gov is the first cross-government website devoted to providing consumer information about vaccines and immunization, combining content and expertise from agencies across the Department. It is the result of unprecedented collaboration among federal health and communications experts to offer online content about vaccine and immunization based on consumer needs.

The site includes content about vaccine recommendations, the diseases that vaccines prevent, important information for getting vaccinated, and tips on travel health. It also links consumers with resources in their states to learn about vaccine requirements for school or child care entry and local community information.

"This website will help ensure that Americans have accurate, Web-based information on immunizations," said Dr. Bruce Gellin, director of the National Vaccine Program Office at HHS, which led the creation of Vaccines.gov. "It was developed with significant consumer input based on the public's feedback and is remarkably easy to navigate. It is designed to answer consumers' questions, educate them about diseases that vaccines prevent, and connect Americans with resources to keep themselves and their families healthy."

In the coming year, Vaccines.gov will be expanded to include information from other government Departments, grow to include a Spanish version of the site, offer new content on vaccine recommendations and infectious disease outbreaks, and be continually tested to ensure Vaccines.gov addresses the needs and questions of consumers.

<https://www.hhs.gov/news>

Trust for America's Health Sees Looming Crisis in Emergency Health Preparedness in U.S.

In its eighth annual *Ready or Not? Protecting the Public from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism* report, Trust for America's Health finds that the H1N1 flu outbreak has exposed serious underlying gaps in the nation's ability to respond to public health emergencies and that the economic crisis is straining an already fragile public health system. The report, which contains state-by-state health preparedness scores based on 10 key indicators, notes that the almost decade of gains is in real jeopardy due to severe budget cuts by federal, state, and local governments.

New York Score: 8/10

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror10/release.php?stateid=NY>

A report summary is available at:

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror10/>

The full report can be viewed at: <http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/TFAH2010ReadyorNot%20FINAL.pdf>

MRC Region II Roundup Newsletter: January 2011

Albany Police Launches Texting Tip Line

The Albany Police Department has made an anonymous texting tip line available to the public.

"Tip411" which is powered by Citizen Observer, was funded through a joint Operation Impact grant with the Albany County District Attorney's Office.

To use the service the caller texts "APDTips" and the tip information to 847411 (Tip411). All of the information is forwarded to the Albany County Crime Analysis Center and is completely anonymous. Citizen Observer's technology removes the identifying information of the sender before the tip is forwarded. The service allows a detective to follow up with the sender in a response text, but the citizen remains completely anonymous throughout the conversation.

"This program enables citizens, who otherwise might be reluctant to contact police or provide information to communicate anonymously through a text message. It continues our effort to strengthen our relationships with the community who want to rid their neighborhoods of crime", stated Chief Steven Krokoff.

The text tip line went live on January 1. It is not intended to replace calls for 911 service. Anyone needing to report an emergency should continue to utilize 911.

The text tip line system is currently being utilized by other law enforcement agencies around the country.

<http://www.albanyny.org/Files/texttipline.pdf>



Training Opportunities

Cultural Competency and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Series: Working with Muslim Clients

The fifth installment of our Cultural Competency Series will focus on working with Muslim clients. The training will be presented by Ms. Zanaib Chaudrhy, a local attorney and Co-chair of the Iraqi Refugee Project and Dr. Mussaret Chaudrhy, a founding member of the Islamic Center of the Capital District.

Thursday, April 28, 2011

12:30 pm—3:00 pm

Albany County Department of Health
Auditorium

Lunch will be served

Thursday, April 28, 2011

5:30 pm—8:00 pm

Albany County Department of Health
Auditorium

Dinner will be served

Registration is required. Please click [HERE](#) to register online or contact Sue Riedy at susan.riedy@albanycounty.com or 518-447-4590 with any questions.



Point of Dispensing Using a Non-Medical Model

As the Albany County Department of Health prepares for its participation in the End Game Full Scale exercise, please join us to learn about the nonmedical model for dispensing mass prophylaxis.

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

5:30 pm—7:30 pm

Albany County Department of Health
Auditorium

Dinner will be served

Please click [HERE](#) to register online or contact Sue Riedy at susan.riedy@albanycounty.com or 518-447-4590.



Other Training Opportunities

The Albany Medical Center Regional Resource Center for Emergency Management will be hosting a **Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) Training on June 7, 2011 and an Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS) Training on June 8-9, 2011**. Faculty from the National Disaster Life Support Training Center at UT Southwestern will be serving as instructors for these courses. Attached please find more detailed brochures describing each of the two courses.

Basic Disaster Life Support on June 7, 2011 will be held from 8:00AM-5:00PM at the University at Albany School of Public Health , One University Place, Rensselaer, NY.

Advanced Disaster Life Support on June 8-9, 2011 will be held from 8:00AM-5:00PM at the Hudson Valley Community College Respiratory Care and Paramedic Program, 400 Jordan Road, Troy, NY.

Please note:

Target audience for BDLS includes physicians, nurses, EMS providers, hospital and long term care staff, public health and allied health personnel.

Target Audience for ADLS includes individuals with a hospital and/or pre-hospital disaster operational response or response leadership role, especially Hazardous Materials and Decontamination response.

Successful completion of BDLS within the past three (3) years is a prerequisite for taking ADLS.

ADLS class size is limited to 45 students. Preference will be given to planning and response partners within the Albany Medical Center RRC region.

There will be a \$100 no-show fee incurred if you are registered for ADLS and do not attend.

You will receive confirmation of your registration for ADLS by May 25, 2011.

To register for one or both of these courses, please complete the survey at the link below. The deadline for all registrations is **May 18th, 2011**. Questions pertaining to these courses and the registration process should be directed to Shannon

McDermott @ McDermS@mail.amc.edu.

[BDLS & ADLS Registration Online Registration](#)