



# The Pulse

NOVEMBER 2013

Official Newsletter of the MD Responds Medical Reserve Corps

## New MD Responds Staff Member



Please join us in welcoming Dorothy Sheu to the MD Responds MRC Team as program assistant! Dorothy brings public health and as volunteer coordination experience to support MD Responds. She received her Master in Public Health from Yale's School of Public Health. There, she gained firsthand emergency planning and preparedness

experience under the guidance of Lieutenant Colonel Joanne McGovern and Yale Emergency Medicine's Dr. Sandy Bogucki.

Dorothy has led multiple volunteer programs in the past, with members ranging from medical students to foreign services officers. Most recently, she helped coordinate health promotion volunteers for the International Rescue Committee in Silver Spring, MD as an AmeriCorps VISTA. We are very happy to have her on board!

You can reach Dorothy at [Dorothy.Sheu@Maryland.gov](mailto:Dorothy.Sheu@Maryland.gov) or by phone at 410-388-6033.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Developments	1
Highlights from the Field	2
State-Wide Full Scale Exercise	3
A Look Ahead	4
A Look Ahead, Cont'd	5
Profile Tips	6
Resources	6
Volunteer Counts	6

The MD Responds MRC Newsletter is brought to you by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Preparedness and Response.



## New Initiative: Local MD Responds Units

Disasters and emergencies strike at the local level first. Your local health department MRC will alert you of events in your county; they are also to whom you report for county-level deployments. If local resources are overwhelmed, you will receive an alert or activation from the state for regional, statewide, or national deployment opportunities.

Accordingly, the MD Responds MRC prepares county-level staff for MRC administrator roles. The 'Local MD Responds Unit Initiative' provides local health departments and emergency planners with unified MRC volunteer coordination through the MD Responds Volunteer Registry (MDRVR). In September 2013, MD Responds local administrators took a webinar on operating the MDRVR. Then, local

administrators had the opportunity to practice sending out activation and deployment notifications through the MDRVR in an October 2013 exercise.

### HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

Through the MDRVR, volunteers will now receive notifications from both the state and local MRC programs, and subsequently, increased opportunities for involvement. Win-Win!



## Prince George's County MRC Helps Citizens with Flu Readiness

*-Contributed by Richard Goddard, Prince George's County Health Department*

Our local MRC units work very hard and the Prince George's County unit is no exception. The Prince George's County Health Department organized four community flu immunization clinics in October 2013.

15 MRC volunteers dedicated countless hours of service at this major public health event. Thanks to the appreciable work of the Prince George's MRC volunteers and administrators, close to 1200 people acquired flu shots!

## Super Saturday Flu Clinic: Baltimore MD Responds Unit

*-Contributed by Terry Sapp, EMT, CHEP, Baltimore County Health Department*

On October 5, 2013, a dozen medical and public health volunteers from across the Baltimore Metropolitan Region assisted Baltimore County Health & Human Services with Super Saturday IV, a countywide influenza vaccination event that exercised mass dispensing plans while providing the public with protection from the flu. Volunteers from Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard Counties attended a two-hour Point of Dispensing training and then put their skills to the test in one of the seven mass vaccination locations throughout Baltimore County. Almost 4,000 doses of vaccine were administered within 3.5 hours -- with wait times averaging under 15 minutes! Excellent job and thank you to everyone who helped out.



## Winners of the MD Responds Online Orientation Prize Draw

MD Responds Personal  
Emergency Survival Kit.

We are happy to announce the prize draw winners! Volunteers who completed the online MD Responds orientation between August 23, 2013, and September 30, 2013, were automatically entered for a chance to win a MD Responds Personal Emergency Survival Kit.

It is with great pleasure that we award prizes to the following MD Responds volunteers: Sandra Bowles, Chester Buckenmaier III, James Cimino, Edward Connelly, and Joey Punturiero. Congratulations!

Completing the online orientation and 100% of your MD Responds profile will enter you for the next prize draw. The online orientation is also an important review of the MD Responds program -- perfect for both new and seasoned MD Responds volunteers. Complete the online orientation here:

<http://mdresponds.myicourse.com/>



# 2013 Maryland Statewide Strategic National Stockpile Exercise

*-Contributed by Al Romanosky, MD, PhD, Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene, Office of Preparedness & Response*



A snapshot of the many players involved in the statewide SNS exercise

The MD DHMH OP&R sponsored, developed, and conducted a functional modified full-scale statewide exercise September 23 to 25, 2013.

The exercise simulated the spread of Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (emerging infectious disease) into MD. In this exercise, a need for critical supplies resulted in activation of MD's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Operations Plan; exercise players requested medical materiel resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and then distributed the materiel to MD's acute care facilities.

*Thank you to all who took part in the 2013 State SNS exercise!*

Thank you to all who took part in this exercise! Participating agencies and organizations included: local health departments (24), acute care facilities (45), state facilities (12), Law enforcement (5), Department of Defense/Military (3), state agencies (15), federal agencies (3), and MD Responds Volunteers (pharmacists).

## Pharmacy Volunteers Shine in State SNS Exercise

*-Contributed by Janet Seeds, MHS, MD Board of Pharmacy*

MD Responds pharmacy volunteers played a critical role in the success of the 2013 Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) distribution exercise. Volunteers helped test MD's emergency medical materiel request process, including security handoff procedures, receipt of SNS antibiotics and antiviral medications, and quality assurance of SNS assets before distribution throughout MD.

"The role of the pharmacist volunteers in the exercise and in future public health disasters and emergencies cannot and should not be underestimated. They play an essential role in the distribution of critical medications, as well as ensuring proper distribution to our health care partners in protecting MD's residents," said Dr. Al Romanosky, OP&R Medical Director and exercise lead.

The DHMH OP&R and the MD Board of Pharmacy's Emergency Preparedness Task Force greatly thank the following volunteers for their participation in the 2013 SNS Distribution Exercise: Arnie Honkofsky, Bart Regan, Cynthia Anderson,

Don Taylor, Eric Barbye, Han Luu, Hoai-An Truong, James Bresette, Janet Seeds, John Chad Morris, Larry Hogue, Miesha Buckner, Phil Cogan, Reid Zimmer, Renee Riddix-Hilliard, Rosanna Powell, Sajal Roy, Simon Bae, and Veronica Hunt.



*MD Responds Pharmacy Volunteers practiced preparing antibiotics and antiviral medicals for distribution to state acute care centers.*

## MD Responds Orientation Training

The MD Responds MRC will host in-class orientations and NIMS/ICS Trainings throughout MD. If you have not already, register for an upcoming MD Responds orientation ASAP! Registration is required for this training. See the course flyer for more information: <http://bit.ly/InClassMDR>

In-class MD Responds orientation takes place 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on:

- Nov. 5, 2013 - Garrett Co. Health Department
- Nov. 8, 2013 - Frederick Co. Health Department
- Nov. 12, 2013 - Springfield Hospital Conference Center
- Nov. 15, 2013 - Talbot Co. Dept. of Emergency Services
- Nov. 21, 2013 - 1300 Quince Orchard Blvd, Gaithersburg

*All volunteers are required to complete the MD Responds Orientation to meet deployment eligibility.*



Can't attend one of the in-class orientations? MD Responds is delighted to offer you an alternate orientation opportunity — online! This NEW online MD Responds Orientation condenses the in-class orientation to give MD Responds volunteers basic, yet vital information. We highly recommend that all registered volunteers take the NEW online MD Responds Orientation. For more about the online MD Responds orientation, visit: <http://bit.ly/OnlineMDR>

## Learn about Point of Dispensing Roles

*-Contributed by Brenda Caldwell, Public Information Coordinator, Allegany County Health Department*



Allegany County Health  
Department  
[http://  
www.alleganyhealthdept.c  
om/index.htm](http://www.alleganyhealthdept.com/index.htm)

While MD Responds volunteers are an invaluable asset to public health during an emergency, thankfully disasters are infrequent. This creates a unique challenge for local coordinators who seek emergency response training opportunities for volunteers. One way that the Allegany County Health Department addresses this issue is by incorporating volunteers into its annual mass flu vaccination clinic.

"We decided this year that we would extend an invitation to interested volunteers... for a walk-through of the clinic stations and roles and Q&A about what services volunteers might provide at an emergency POD," stated local volunteer administrator and Public Health Emergency Planner Fred Tola. "This will require a smaller time com-

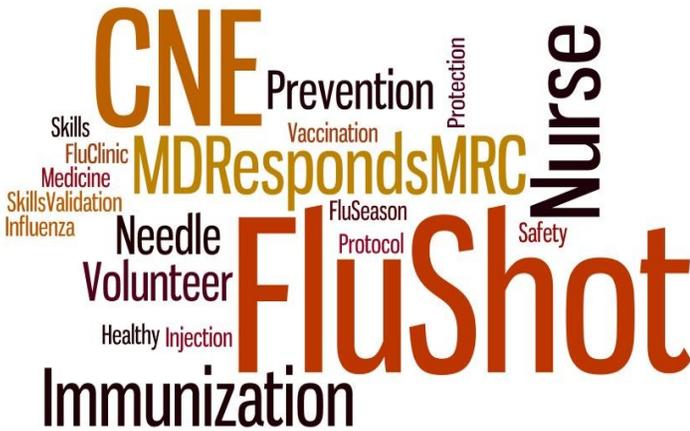
mitment from the volunteers while still offering them the chance to brush up on their knowledge of emergency POD roles. It also allows us, as a health department, to practice utilizing the MD Responds system to communicate with our volunteers about local training opportunities like this."

The mass vaccination clinic will take place on Thursday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Allegany County Fairgrounds in Cumberland, MD. The walk-through training for volunteers will take place at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact the Allegany County Health Department Office of Public Health Preparedness at 301-759-5019.

# Immunization Refresher Courses for Nurses

Flu season is here. Refresh your immunization skills through two FREE opportunities for MD nurses, co-provided by the Institute for Johns Hopkins Nursing and the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing:

1. **Online Module** - Immunization Techniques for Nurses: Administering the Influenza Vaccine (1 CNE). In this self-paced, asynchronous online course you will learn the necessary skills for vaccination administration and child restraint. Take the online course here: <http://bit.ly/ImTecjH>.
2. **Practical Training** - Immunization Skills Validation Workshop (2.75 CNE). Practice your immunization skills by enrolling in a 3-hour skills validation train-the-trainer workshop co-sponsored by The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and the MD DHMH OP&R. The 'Immunization Techniques for Nurses' online module is a prerequisite that trainees should complete prior to attendance. The workshop takes place Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing (SON), 525 N. Wolfe Street Baltimore, MD 21205. A parking ticket will be provided for free parking at JHU parking garages. To register, please visit: <http://1.usa.gov/Hj4fBz>. For registration questions, contact Clifford Smith at [clifford.smith@maryland.gov](mailto:clifford.smith@maryland.gov).



## Terrorism and Violent Crimes Awareness Training

Do not miss the Homeland Security awareness training opportunity! Brought to you by Infragard MD and the MD Coordination and Analysis Center, topics include: Sovereign Citizens Activity in MD, gang activity in MD, active shooter threat and response, domestic/international terrorism threat, and terrorist use of explosives. Seats remain for the December 7, 2013, session. To register, please visit: <http://bit.ly/TVCctfer>. Kindly direct questions specific to InfraGard Maryland Members Alliance & the MCAC; visit the link and click the "Contact Organizer".

## Mass Prophylaxis Preparedness & Planning Training

The Prince George's County MD Responds Unit will host a two-day training on Mass Prophylaxis Preparedness & Planning, led by Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). This training takes place December 12 and 13, 2013, and is open to health department staff and MRC volunteers. County staff and volunteers receive priority and remaining seats are open to others. Download the training flyer at <http://bit.ly/MassProMDR> for more information. Follow the directions below to register:

1. Obtain a Student ID# from FEMA: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/elms>. Click the "Create Account" button on the left side of the screen. Follow the instructions to create your account.
2. Send an email to [HDEmergencyPreparedness@co.pg.md.us](mailto:HDEmergencyPreparedness@co.pg.md.us) with the following information: Name; email address; best phone number(s) to reach you if there is a cancellation or course adjustment; employer; job title; volunteer status (MD Responds MRC, CERT, Red Cross, if applicable).



Prince George's County  
Health Department  
[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov)

Profile Tips

Am I deployment eligible?

Answer the below questions to see if you've met MD Responds' updated deployment requirements. Have I...

- Registered and updated 100% of my MDR online profile? (include license number, if applicable) <http://mdresponds.dhmh.maryland.gov>
- Completed the MD Responds orientation (online or in-class)? <http://bit.ly/MDRtrex>
- Signed and sent my MD Responds liability and confidentiality forms? [mdresponds.dhmh@maryland.gov](mailto:mdresponds.dhmh@maryland.gov)
- Sent a headshot for my profile and ID Badge? [mdresponds.dhmh@maryland.gov](mailto:mdresponds.dhmh@maryland.gov)

Update Your MD Responds Training Record

The time and commitment you invest in trainings prepares you well as a MD Responds volunteer. Upload certificates to your MD Responds profile under the 'training' tab. For detailed directions, please visit: <http://bit.ly/MDRupdtr>. Is your course missing from the MD Responds dropdown? Email [mdresponds.dhmh@maryland.gov](mailto:mdresponds.dhmh@maryland.gov) with the course title, provider, and description). We will review the courses and add those that meet core competencies.

Responder Resource Alert

- OP&R Preparedness Fact Sheets. OP&R releases fact sheets on several preparedness topics. Check out our new fact sheet on Ricin, available at <http://bit.ly/oprpf>. Additional preparedness fact sheets have also been translated into several languages. Find these fact sheets at <http://bit.ly/oprpb>.
- Smartphones-- Essential to Your Disaster Kit. Before the cell networks are down, here's what you should load up on your smartphone: <http://cope-preparedness.org/archives/2802>
- Maryland Prepares Smartphone App. Be Prepared, Be Informed. The MD Prepares mobile app, created by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, provides important information and tools to help MD residents be more informed and prepared for emergency situations. The free app is available for iPhone and Android devices. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/MDprep>.
- RX on the Run. Here's an online tool that lets you print a personalized medication wallet card: [www.rxresponse.org/rx-on-the-run](http://www.rxresponse.org/rx-on-the-run). Explore their website for additional RX Response resources: [www.rxresponse.org/resource-center/public-resources](http://www.rxresponse.org/resource-center/public-resources).

Feedback

What can we do better? What topics interest you? Do you have any suggestions about the newsletter, the program, or anything else? If so, please send us an E-mail:

[MDResponds.dhmh@Maryland.gov](mailto:MDResponds.dhmh@Maryland.gov) or message MD Responds on Facebook.



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Profession (Top 10)	Count
Nurses & Nursing Assistants	1142
Physicians	309
Social Worker	205
Pharmacist & Pharmacy Technicians	185
Professional Counselors	49
Veterinarians & Veterinary Technicians	42
Dentists & Dental Assistants	39
Physician Assistants	36
Faith-based Volunteers	28
Mortician, Funeral Directors	27
Other	902

YOU COUNT!

Volunteer Counts  
(as of 10/31/13)

TOTAL  
2,964!