



*Sedgwick County...
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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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**SUMMER OF SERVICE: BECOME A VOLUNTEER
THROUGH YOUR LOCAL MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS**

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – This summer the President has asked Americans to participate in the nation's recovery and renewal through service. There are many ways to meet this call to action. One avenue is through your local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) which is currently looking for both medical and non-medical personnel, who are interested in volunteering to help protect the health of their community and county.

The MRC provides a method to 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 complement existing emergency and public health resources.

MRC volunteers are trained and credentialed so that they can be called into action and fill crucial roles whenever the need arises. The need for this type of organization became clear during the crisis on September 11, 2001. Many volunteers wanted to help, however they had not been pre identified or credentialed. Therefore their skill set could not be used to it fullest or they were turned away.

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During a public health emergency, MRC volunteers will be needed to help operate emergency vaccination clinics or pharmaceutical distribution clinics. Volunteers' skills will be matched to the appropriate role. Other example functions include: medical screenings, running patient education sessions, directing people, providing mental health consultation, registering patients, data entry and stocking supplies. With the potential for a pandemic response this fall, MRC volunteers are needed now more than ever before.

During times of non-emergency, volunteers serve as local "ambassadors" for public health. Some activities might include: assisting with flu clinics, health screenings, providing education sessions or presentations on special health topics, helping with health fairs, promoting immunization campaigns, and participating in training exercises.

If you are interested in joining the Sedgwick County MRC, call 660-7344. You can also visit www.sedgwickcounty.org for more information. Click on Medical Reserve Corps under the Quick Click and Go menu at the top of the page.

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