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Health Department

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## Volunteering for Novel H1N1 Flu Response

September 1, 2009

### Are volunteers needed to respond to H1N1?

YES! During public health emergencies, volunteers are needed to help operate emergency vaccination clinics. At this time, health departments across the country are securing volunteer's names and contact information so they are ready to quickly train and utilize volunteers in vaccine clinics.

### How many volunteers are needed?

Due to the large-scale of a mass vaccination clinic, countless volunteers are needed. Because the Sedgwick County Health Department is committed to meeting the needs of the public, vaccine clinics will be offered at various times and possibly numerous locations. This means clinics may be open on weekends, evenings, or nights. For this reason a large pool of volunteers is needed so all "slots" can be filled.

### Who can volunteer?

Anyone can volunteer; both medically-trained and non-medical volunteers are needed. Volunteers' skills will be matched to the appropriate role. Example volunteer jobs include: providing patient education, directing people, registering patients, giving vaccines, data entry, and stocking supplies.

### How do I sign up to help?

There are two avenues to becoming a local H1N1 volunteer. Individuals can either join the Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) or sign up specifically to help with H1N1 response. Applications for both are available at [www.sedgwickcounty.org/mrc](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org/mrc).

After signing up, you will be contacted by a volunteer scheduler to determine when and where you will volunteer.

### What is the MRC?

The MRC is a specialized component of the Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security. The MRC is a network of over 800 community-based citizen volunteer units across the country. The MRC is under the guidance of the Office of the Surgeon General within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and locally falls under the direction of the health department.

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.

### Are volunteers needed in other counties?

Volunteers are needed everywhere! If you live outside Sedgwick County and would like to volunteer specifically for H1N1 response, visit [www.bepreparedkansas.com](http://www.bepreparedkansas.com). Click on "VOLUNTEERS." Your information will be sent to the appropriate contact person.

If you live outside of Sedgwick County and would like to become a local MRC volunteer, visit [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov) to locate the unit nearest you.

### *For more information:*

If you have questions about volunteering for H1N1 response in Sedgwick County,

Email [flu@sedgwick.gov](mailto:flu@sedgwick.gov),

Call 660-5558,

Or visit [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org)