

PHRCorps Press

Fall 2007



A quarterly newsletter to inform Public Health Reserve Corps (PHRC) volunteers of:

- Education & training opportunities,
- Relevant news & events, and
- Public Health Seattle King County (PHSKC) related information.

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Public Health
Seattle & King County



PHRC Participates in Medication Center Trainings and Drills!

Thank you to the several PHRC volunteers that have signed up for the upcoming Public Health preparedness training and drill opportunities.

In case you haven't heard... PHSKC is sponsoring several preparedness training and drill opportunities this fall around medication center response. These trainings and drills are a great way for volunteers to learn about and experience specific roles around working in a medication center response.

If you are interested in participating it's not too late to sign up! RSVP to:

Mandi George
mandi.george@kingcounty.gov or
206.263.8308

The upcoming medication center training & drills include: (see Education & Training section for more information):

- Vaccinator Refresher Training
- Medication Center Logistics Training
- Medication Center Signage Support Team Training
- Medication Center Mass Vaccination Drills

Specific roles volunteers could fill in medication center response include:

- Vaccinators
- Health educators
- Flow monitors and greeters
- Inventory runners
- Set Up/Tear down

PHRC Volunteer Orientation

January 28, 2008

8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

OR

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Eastgate Public Health Center
Rooms A&B
14350 SE Eastgate Way,
Bellevue

Food & beverages provided

Must sign up by calling or e-mailing Mandi George at 206.263.8308, mandi.george@kingcounty.gov

RSVP by January 20

PHRC Education & Training Opportunities*

Vaccinator Refresher Training

Licensed health professionals, who don't normally vaccinate in their daily work, receive hands on training on administering vaccinations to adults and children.

Thursday, October 18, 6:00 – 9:00 PM,
Renton Community Center
Dinner and beverages provided
CEU's available



Medication Center Logistics Training

The success of a Medication Center operation depends on an excellent logistics team. The logistics training will provide hands-on experience in logistical support roles and responsibilities such as set-up, managing supplies and inventory, and signage placement as well as incident command.

Monday, October 29 or Tuesday, October 30, 6:00 – 8:30 PM,
Eastgate Public Health Center or Public Health Downtown Seattle
Dinner and beverages provided

Tour of King County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Emergency Coordination Center

Enjoy an engaging narrative walking tour of the region's "central" emergency management command center.

October 23, OR November 27, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Renton

Medication Center Signage Support Training

Learn the important communications role signage plays during an emergency and how you can make a difference. Signage Training for Public Health Reserve Corps members covers the basics of participation on the Signage Support Team, which includes key points about assembling, displaying and maintaining signs at an emergency center.

Saturday, December 1, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Delridge Community Center
Snacks and beverages provided

PHSKC Mass Vaccination Flu Clinic Drill

Public Health will practice its ability to give vaccinations to a large number of people in a short amount of time, using real seasonal flu vaccine.

Saturday, December 9, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM,
Renton and Delridge Community Centers
Breakfast, lunch and snacks provided

Online Training:

Mass Dispensing Sites: A Primer for Volunteers

An overview of the general operations of mass dispensing sites and an orientation for individuals who may be asked to work in those sites during an emergency.

<http://cpheo.sph.umn.edu/cpheo/umncphp/online/home.html#massdisp>

***To register for all in-person trainings & drills e-mail or call Mandi George**

PHRC Required Training & the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a federal mandate, linked to federal funding. All response agencies, including Public Health Seattle & King County, must be NIMS compliant to be eligible to continue receiving federal grant funding for preparedness. This includes the PHRC program. One piece of NIMS compliance is required training of staff and volunteers. PHRC volunteers are included in NIMS compliance and are required to fulfill two specific NIMS online trainings by December 2008.

The two required trainings can be completed online by accessing the direct web links shown below:

1. IS-100.HC Introduction to the Incident Command System for Healthcare/Hospitals
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100HC.asp>
2. IS-700 National Incident Management System an Intro
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>

When volunteers have completed the two online courses copies (electronic preferred) of completion certificates should be sent to Mandi George to include in volunteer personnel files. Questions regarding the trainings contact Mandi. Thank you for your participation!

Health Care for the Homeless Flu Clinic Schedules:

AHA St. Martin's Shelter, 10/29, 6 – 9 pm

Compass CSO, 11/1, 8 – 11 am

Compass Men's Program, 11/13, 6:30 – 8 pm

DESC, 11/30, 10 am – 1 pm

DESC Mental Health, 11/20, 9 am – 12 pm

Salvation Army, 11/27, 6 – 8 pm

Union Gospel, 12/20, 5 – 8 pm

Health Care for the Homeless Presents Training for PHRC Volunteers!

Health Care for the Homeless (HCN), a program of PHSKC provides quality, comprehensive health care for people experiencing homelessness in King County and provides leadership to help change the conditions that deprive our neighbors of home and health. Every year, HCH provides flu vaccine clinics at approximately 75 different sites around the county that serve homeless people. This is a much needed and highly appreciated service. Many of the people who get their flu shot at these clinics would not be immunized otherwise, either due to lack of money, insurance, transportation or a variety of other barriers that homeless people typically face. The flu is never an easy illness to endure, but being sick in a shelter, on the streets, or alone with no one to help is a truly miserable experience. HCN is providing a very unique training opportunity we hope volunteers are able to take advantage of.

Should you volunteer you might:

- Find that shelters and other places that serve homeless people are wonderful places to provide basic health education about hand and cough hygiene.
- Discover a great opportunity to practice immunization skills in the field.
- Practice your new skills in extremely non-traditional settings.
- Get to know some of Seattle's most vulnerable residents and gain deeper understanding about their living conditions and circumstances.
- Really come to understand the expression "Meeting our client where they are at"!

The following is a list of tasks we need your help with:

- Greeting clients, circulating in the environments and providing health education about the flu shot, dispelling flu shot myths (i.e. "It always makes me sick!"), teaching about hand and cough hygiene, and using hand sanitizer.
- Handing out flu information flyers.
- Assisting clients with paperwork.
- Registering people and getting medical coupon information, if possible.
- Giving shots (licensed RNs or MD's only).

The sidebar to the left lists locations, dates, and times of the Flu Clinics. If interested in volunteering contact Mandi George at 206-263-8308 or mandi.george@kingcounty.gov as soon as possible.

Farewell to Stephanie! ☹️

PHSKC and the PHRC program are sad to announce the resignation of Stephanie Cherberg, HR Associate for the PHRC. Although her tenure with PHSKC was brief, her dedication and work ethic has been fantastic. She will be extremely missed. We wish Stephanie the best of luck in her new HR position at Skagit Valley Hospital. Stephanie's last day with PHSKC is October 15. PHRC HR or administrative related questions should be directed to Mandi George at mandi.george@kingcounty.gov until the HR Associate position is filled. Thank you for your patience during this transition.

Message from PHRC Volunteer:

Gayle Clelland

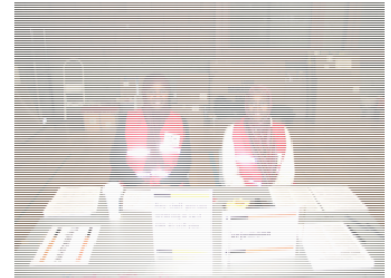
I had the pleasure of meeting several other PHRC Volunteers while enjoying an engaging narrative walking tour of the region's "central" emergency management command center on 7/24/07. Our narrator at the Office of Emergency Management demonstrated a high level of knowledge and competence. As one of the volunteers who joined the walking tour I must say I was quite impressed with the County's logistics, communication, and operations center. It was apparent that the roles and responsibilities of the Command Center had been well thought out and clearly delineated in advance of an actual emergency response. I felt this Center was a very secure environment, well-equipped and well-maintained. I would feel extremely comfortable working in the OEM center for any type of emergency response.

Thank you PHRC program for providing us volunteers opportunities such as this.

PHRC Recruitment Campaign

This fall Public Health Seattle & King County and the PHRC program have launched a campaign to recruit additional volunteers into the PHRC. The goal of the campaign is to recruit at least an additional 300 volunteers into the program by the end of the year. Applications are being accepted for the following positions*:

- Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians
- Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners
- Registered Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Physicians
- Support Volunteers (non-medical and medical)



In addition to using our traditional recruitment processes for the positions, we are putting more emphasis on recruiting school nurses and dentists as these individuals are usually not considered "first responders" and are licensed to vaccinate and/or dispense medication. We are also recruiting support volunteers who have logistical and/or event planning experience (medical or non-medical).

If you know of a friend, relative, colleague and/or co-worker that are interested in helping our community and becoming a PHRC volunteer refer them to our web site for more information and to apply at www.metrokc.gov/health/phreservecorps. In addition, if you are interested in distributing PHRC "recruitment" materials and/or would like us to present at a meeting or event regarding the PHRC contact Mandi George at mandi.george@kingcounty.gov.

*Applications are accepted into the PHRC at any time, even beyond the recruitment campaign.

No Shortage of Flu Vaccine This Year

After two straight years of flu vaccine shortages and production delays, health officials say record numbers of vaccines will be available this year.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health last month released a notice to all health officials claiming flu vaccine manufacturers are predicting they will produce more than 100 million vaccine doses this year, which would be a record amount.

The full story can be found at the following link:

<http://www.dailynewstranscript.com/homepage/x384940026>