

THE MRC REPORTER
NEWSLETTER FOR THE
SONOMA COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS
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MASS DISPENSING SITE EXERCISE: SUCCESS!

- **June 23rd, 2005 Mass Dispensing Site Exercise**

- Thanks to everyone who participated in the June 23rd mass dispensing site exercise at Montgomery High School. No matter whether you were called on to be a line monitor, a medical screener, or any other position, each role is important! Your professionalism and hard work made the exercise a success!

This exercise tested the operating procedures for a large public medication dispensing site. These procedures are part of the Public Health Emergency Response Plan, a dynamic document that is regularly reviewed and revised.

The purpose of the exercise was to test and evaluate the procedures and position checklists for deploying a mass dispensing site. Everyone completed a feedback form after the exercise, but if you have any other suggestions or comments, please drop us an email at dhs-mrc@sonoma-county.org. This feedback is being reviewed, and will help us prepare the "After Action Report," which will include recommendations for improvements to the Plan.

For those of you that were not able to attend, we hope that you will be able to participate in future drills.

- **The Notification System: One size Fits All**

- The script used by the phone notification system to call up volunteers the day before the mass dispensing site exercise caused a bit of confusion. The call up message is a voice recording, and at first the message may sound like a phone solicitor. But it is not!

Because this system is used by our emergency services to call up many types of workers (not just MRC), the opening statement begins with "This

is an important message...” What you need to know to report for duty will follow.

It is important that everyone know how the call up message begins, so that you don't accidentally hang up or delete the message before you receive the important information. Of course, it is critical that you keep your contact information current, so you can receive these call up instructions. To update your contact information, visit our website at: www.sonoma-county.org/mrc or call 707-565-4427.

UPCOMING TRAININGS AND EXERCISES

- **Grand Rounds at Public Health**

- All Medical Reserve Corps volunteers are cordially invited to attend the monthly Grand Rounds held at Public Health, 625 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 12:15 to 1:15pm. Space is limited so you will need to reserve a space by either leaving a message at 707-565-4496 or email phtraining@sonoma-county.org. One (1) continuing education unit is available for currently licensed medical nurses.

- **Save the Date: Advanced Training on Avian Flu**

- We are offering trained MRC volunteers an advanced training on the Avian Flu to be held on December 28th, 2005, 12:15 to 1:15pm at 625 Fifth Street (City View Rooms), Santa Rosa. Dr. Leigh Hall, Deputy Health Officer for the County of Sonoma will be the featured speaker. This training will define the microbiological and epidemiological requirements for an influenza pandemic; will identify the need for and obtain an appropriate travel history for a patient presenting with Influenza Like Illness; and will list the components of enhanced surveillance for avian influenza in the United States. One (1) CEU/CME is available for attending this training.

To register email phtraining@sonoma-county.org or call Gabrielle at 707-565-4427 for further information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES

- **2005/06 Hand Hygiene Program: “Infection Protection: It’s in Your Hands”**
 - October 23rd to the 30th is International Infection Prevention Week. According to Dr Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control: "Clean hands are the single most important factor in preventing the spread of dangerous germs and antibiotic resistance in health care settings." Hand washing with soap and water remains a sensible strategy for hand hygiene in non-health care settings and is recommended by CDC and other experts. This year’s the MRC volunteers will again be presenting an entertaining program in elementary schools to teach the basics of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. For more information please contact: Ann Baechler, RN at 565-4579 or email abaechle@sonoma-county.org.

REMEMBER to check our website:

www.sonoma-county.org/mrc

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