

SERV-OR Bulletin

Issue # 19: Looking back, looking forward

January 7, 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

SERV-OR year Wrap: Total Missions and Hours 2021 NEW	1
SERV-OR FAQs: Governor’s extended emergency declaration, what does it mean for me? Updated	2
What's new in Treatments and Prevention Therapies? NEW	3
Stories of Service: Welcome to Chris Wirth, Multnomah County MRC Coordinator NEW	4
Results of SERV-OR Training Survey NEW	4
Voices from the Field: Smoking Cessation and Vaccine Hesitancy: Can We Leverage Common Techniques to Improve Public Health? NEW ..	5
Pandemic Fatigue and SERV-OR Volunteers NEW	5
Online Training Modules Updated	6
Volunteer and Job Opportunities Updated	6

SERV-OR year Wrap: Total Missions and Hours 2021 **NEW**

Provided by Joe Harity and Isna Waqas

Another year of COVID-19 response has made its way into the rearview mirror and what do we have to show for it? Well, a whole lot of amazing work, actually! This year, volunteers and coordinators of all SERV-OR Organizations persevered, doing what we are known for. You continued to serve Oregon communities as noble, professional, and compassionate service leaders during the most trying and depleting era in modern history. And we have lot to be proud of!! Of note...

Medical Reserve Corps’ emergency volunteers service hours supported 648 events totaling 47,193 hours in the field

- Over 693 of these hours supported Testing events
- Nearly 900 hours contributed to non-COVID response for warming and cooling centers and wildfire emergency response

UPDATES COLUMN

Oregon’s January, 2022 Volunteer Activity

Unit	Hours	Deployed Volunteers <small>Duplicative of members who deployed multiple times.</small>	Value of service
State Managed Volunteer Pool	87	17	\$4,002
Medical Reserve Corps	10	2	\$461.45
Total Oregon	97	19	\$4,463.45

- ✓ **Reminder to update your license expiration on SERV-OR**
- ✓ **Oregon’s Omicron Response Plan**
- ✓ **MRC Start-up and Sustainability Toolkit**
- ✓ **Permanent Rule:** put in place by EMS/TS and OMB, to expand EMS practitioners who can immunize for seasonal flu and other outbreaks
- ✓ Oregon's COVID-19 Data Dashboards [here](#).
- ✓ **Subscribe** to COVID-19 Health talking points
- ✓ **Request** a SERV-OR member badge
- ✓ We want to hear your **stories of service!**
- ✓ **News** from the national Medical Reserve Corps office

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS ACTIVITY

Emergency Activity Type	Hours	Missions
COVID-19 Vaccine Events	42964	6699
COVID-19 Testing Clinics	693	154
Medical Surge Capacity	1838	212
Warming Shelters	52	13
Cooling Shelters	257	61
Wildfire Relief	609	2
Non-Emergency Activity	Hours	Missions
MRC Team Leadership Activities	348	123
Non-Emergency Trainings	432	32
TOTAL	47193	7296

- And despite how busy emergencies kept you, 432 hours were spent training to keep your tools sharp for what the future holds

The State Managed Volunteer Pool’s emergency volunteers service hours supported 10,594 hours across at least 642 events

- Shout out to the SERV-OR Bulletin Development Team for 142.5 hours of service in 2021 dedicated, to keeping SERV-OR members informed!
- How about Testing? Well, before the shift to vaccines, volunteers supported 410 hours at Community Collection events
- A staggering 600 vaccine events in Oregon were staffed by OHA’s pool of SERV-OR volunteers. We cannot thank you enough!

2021 STATE MANAGED VOLUNTEER POOL ACTIVITY		
Activity type	Hours	Missions
Peer Support Activity Report	12.75	1
Vaccine Assistance Navigator	9.08	1
Bulletin Development Team	142.4	1
Community Collection Events	142.4	35
Vaccine Events	9512.5	600
TOTAL	9,819.13	638.00

We can acknowledge that going into 2022 with another surge upon us was the last thing we expected to see. It is clear that those of you who wake up each morning to give back, whether through your day-job or volunteer-job, were hoping to see a better outcome by this time. The fatigue, exhaustion, and burn-out is rampant, yet we see SERV-OR showing up every day. I want to encourage and remind you to take rest. Take time and preserve your strength. We cannot be strong for everyone, every day. While my instinct is to encourage you to keep giving back, my heart knows many of you are tired. Our strength in numbers (over 6k registrants!), can allow you to take a step back when you need it, for others to step up to the call. These impressive activity numbers are astounding, yet ironically, I hope that in 2022 the need for this level of response diminishes and we can return to a sense of normalcy we all deserve. Until that day comes, you should know that the gratitude and respect for SERV-OR volunteers at the federal, state, and local levels, is unimaginable. We wish you a very Happy New Year. You make us strong and we thank you.

SERV-OR FAQs: Governor’s extended emergency declaration, what does it mean for me? Updated

Provided by Sophie Miller-Desart

- ✓ On Tuesday, December 21, Governor Brown communicated the COVID emergency declaration in Oregon will be continued for certain COVID response and recovery support. SERV-OR was expressly identified in the declaration as an essential service in the fight against COVID. Because of this, SERV-OR organizations, including MRC units, may continue support of COVID-19 response and recovery efforts with state sanctioned tort liability and workers’ compensation protection as defined by 401.368 and 401.667. **The new emergency order will expire on June 30, 2022.**
- ✓ These executive orders ensure liability/workers’ comp protections related to COVID activities only. Should the State Managed Volunteer Pool or an MRC be requested to activate for extreme weather, wildfire, or any other hazard, state protections will not be in place unless the Governor issues a new EO declaring an emergency and the public body directs volunteers to deploy.

Press Release: Governor Kate Brown Extends COVID-19 Emergency Declaration as Oregon Prepares for Omicron Surge in Cases, Hospitalizations

- ✓ **Executive Order No.21-36**
- ✓ **Declaration of a State of Emergency**

What's new in Treatments and Prevention Therapies? **NEW**

Provided by Jeff Rubin, Donald Venes & Sophie-Miller Desart

Glossary:

EUA: Emergency Use Authorization: Provisional approval of a drug or vaccine to relieve a hazard for which there is no other adequate therapy. An EUA is issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), based on the best available evidence for the safety, effectiveness, and risk of the therapy; it is not equivalent to formal approval or licensure.

mAb: Monoclonal Antibody: An antibody created in a laboratory setting from a single cell line that recognizes a single foreign protein (antigen). mAbs are used to treat autoimmune diseases, some cancers, transplant rejection, and some infections (e.g., COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus). Infectious agents can develop resistance to therapies, including mAbs, e.g., what worked against early SARS-CoV-2 variants may not work against Omicron and ensuing variants.

RCT: Randomized Controlled Trial. A research study in which closely matched subjects are randomly assigned to either an experimental group (treatment group) or a control group (no intervention/placebo group). This allows a powerful comparison of only the treatment outcome being studied.

nAb: Neutralizing Antibody. An antibody that inactivates or blocks the effect of an antigen, for example, a biologically active molecule on the surface of a virus or a tumor cell.

WHATS NEW IN TREATMENTS?

Provided by Jeff Rubin & Sophie-Miller Desart

- **Vaccination Booster Q&A Flyer**
 - **Booster Q&A Social Cards (multiple languages)**
- **CDC Recommendation on Johnson & Johnson Vaccine FAQ**
- **Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup Statement on J&J Vaccine**
- **OHA COVID-19 Treatments website: [English](#), [Spanish](#)**
- **Monoclonals and More – Allocation and Distribution of Outpatient COVID-19 Treatments**
- **mAb FAQs for Providers, Patients**
- **ASPR pauses allocation of bamlanivimab and etesevimab together, etesevimab alone, and REGEN-COV** (includes links to updated FDA caregiver factsheets on the respective mAbs)
- **Sotrovimab EUA, Fact Sheet for patients**
- **Paxlovid EUA, FAQ** (nirmatrelvir co-packaged with ritonavir, for oral use)
- **Molnupiravir EUA, FAQ**
- **Evusheld EUA, FAQ (tixagevimab co-packaged with cilgavimab, for IM injection)**
 - **Flyer and social card**

Stories of Service: Welcome to Chris Wirth, Multnomah County MRC Coordinator NEW

Provided by Renee' Menkens

Chris knew it was time for a change. He worked for the past two decades with Multnomah County vector control and recently took on a position with the county's Public Health Emergency Planning. He started this new position in August 2021 and became the MRC Coordinator in December. He brings a strong focus on customer service and volunteer support for those interested in being engaged as MRC volunteers. Chris indicated that "I am the point person". He stated that "handling and updating county SERV-OR information and where volunteers are needed to activate for Multnomah County is a critical focus."

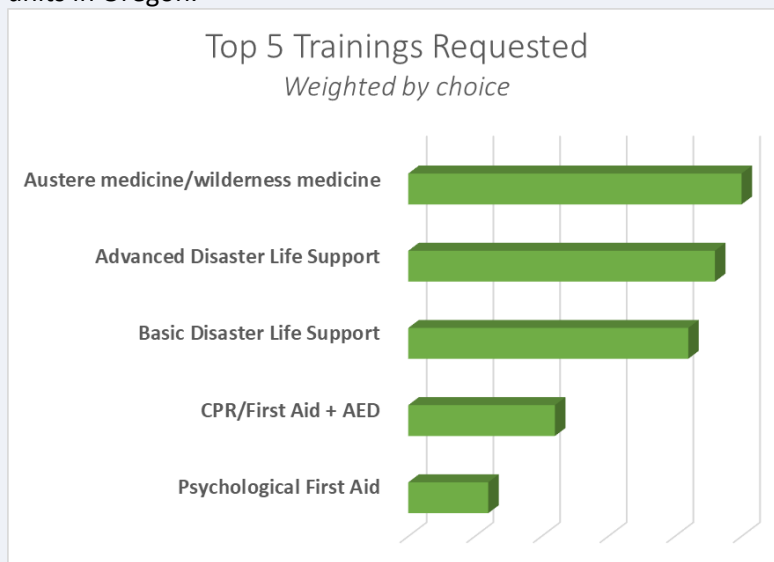


He hopes to help engage MRC volunteers to stay interested in the role and much needed work throughout the county. Multnomah county is big enough that different resources are used to meet emergency needs, but MRC volunteers are a significant addition to any emergency deployment. Chris is acutely aware of the "volunteer lifespan" and how this may impact a surge, so staying connected to the volunteers to help them be ready to deploy whenever needed is important. Right now, Covid vaccinations and testing is a big need, but MRC volunteer assistance in warming shelters is also needed. Chris's job is to make sure all volunteers are credentialed, work in safe locations, and are ready and available to help when needed. Thanks to Chris the Multnomah County MRC volunteers are ready to serve!

Results of SERV-OR Training Survey NEW

Provided by Sophie-Miller Desart

We want to thank those of you who completed the Training Needs Survey from last month's issue of The Bulletin. The results are in and we are sharing the top-5 requests voted for by you! These trainings are weighted by the number of votes each received by 1st, 2nd, or 3rd choice ranking. This input will inform exercise and training planning for SERV-OR in the FY 2022-23. These trainings are not currently available, yet you have provided an informed vantage point for our planning and development of the volunteer pool. Thank you and stay tuned for more training opportunities from OHA and Medical Reserve Corps units in Oregon.



Voices from the Field: Smoking Cessation and Vaccine Hesitancy: Can We Leverage Common Techniques to Improve Public Health? **NEW**

Provided by Donald Venes

Chances are, sometime during your career you've counseled someone to quit smoking. Or quit drinking. Or quit gambling.

You haven't always succeeded, but you've kept trying.

It's likely that you've used one or more proven techniques to get people to kick the habit. You may have done something simple, like ASKING someone to quit. ADVISING cessation. ASSISTING them with a prescription or a referral. You may have ARRANGED follow-up to check in on how smokers are doing. Consider this: when I ADVISE reluctant folks to get vaccinated, I use a parallel strategy: First, I simply ASK people if they are interested. Next, I share detailed ADVICE about vaccine benefits. Third, I ARRANGE follow up for people who may want to think things over.

I read the room. I don't have to convince everyone right away, although that would be great for their health.

But I do want people to know that even when someone declines a vaccine today, that decision isn't set in stone.

I encourage people to return and talk. I let them know I'll listen, that I am interested in their choices, and that I'll also share what I've seen and learned about the severity of Covid-19, and disease prevention.

Oh, and by the way, if vaccine refusers ever want the help that vaccination can provide, they can easily return. My door is always open.

For a deeper dive into crisis communication go to:

- [ASPR Guide to Compassionate and Empathic Dialogue](#)
- AAMC's [Vaccine Voices website](#)

Pandemic Fatigue and SERV-OR Volunteers **NEW**

Provided by Paul Kaplan & Renee' Menkens

Some SERV-OR in-person events have become more difficult to staff in recent months, particularly in rural communities of Oregon. And now the Omicron variant is predicted to create another surge in cases and hospitalizations in Oregon in the next few weeks. This variant has demonstrated increased resistance to a two-dose vaccination protocol. Booster doses have been shown to provide enhanced antibody production and are now recommended for everyone over 15 years of age. Governor Brown has set a goal of administering one million booster doses in our State by the end of January.

We are all unbelievably tired of this COVID pandemic. As healthcare workers, we have been particularly hard hit by both fatigue and burn-out. Most healthcare facilities in Oregon are having difficulty finding adequate staffing. The OHA is moving forward on many fronts to help solve this problem, but SERV-OR volunteers are still vital in many locations. This is especially true with vaccination events where our work has been invaluable in Oregon's success on issue.

It is extremely important for all of us to take care of ourselves during these trying times. We are also seeking feedback on what kind of self-support resources we can provide, where we can leverage your skills, while also ensuring that we are not contributing to your burnout. Our work with SERV-OR is important in protecting our hospitals, keeping our children in school, and getting our lives back to normal. Thank you for all you have done and please keep up your wonderful work to help continue the vital role that SERV-OR has been playing in Oregon's fight against COVID!!

If you would like to establish Peer Support Groups for your hospital staff to use, provide you hospitals SERV-OR's email and from there on they can contact us and we can connect them to our peer support groups.

Online Training Modules **Updated**

Training opportunities are updated regularly **here**.

For community partners, leaders and community based organizations: Join us on Wednesdays for OHA updates and Q&A with senior health advisors. We will have a focus on the Omicron variant and how OHA can support community needs.

- January 12: COVID-19 Listening Session: **English 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Register in advance**
- January 12: COVID-19 Listening Session: **Spanish 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Register in advance**

Visit the **SERV-OR Trainings page** for links to the foundational training series for Disaster Medicine and Public Health Core Competencies, FEMA Incident Command courses, and more!

Volunteer and Job Opportunities **Updated**

- **Program Nurse Manager - Oregon State Hospital Salem Campus-** Full-time, Application deadline 01/23/2022
- **Social Service Specialist 1 - Hotline Screener-** Full-time, Application deadline- 01/24/2022
- **Nurse Manager - Multiple Positions (Oregon State Hospital Salem Campus)-** Full-time, Application deadline, 01/21/2022
- **RDPO Weekly Update**, contains information on current job openings. (Application closing dates vary depending on week)
- **Oregon Health Authority State and County jobs** (Dates vary depending on openings)
- For more volunteer opportunities, events, and petitions near you check out **Made to Save**

Contributors to this bulletin include Isna Waqas, Renee' Menkens, Jeff Rubin, Donald Venes, Daniel Hughson, Paul Kaplan, and Sophie Miller-Desart. Thank you so much to this team for all their efforts!

SERV-OR Mission

The mission of the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) and Oregon's MRC network is to ensure health and well-being, educate, and protect all people in Oregon by recruiting, registering, training, exercising, and deploying licensed volunteer health professionals to support local, tribal, and statewide public health initiatives, health, and medical needs during public health crises, and to improve access to preparedness education and resources for all individuals and communities.