

MA *Ready·Set·Respond* RESPONDS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MA RESPONDS NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING 2019



MA Responds Quarterly Newsletter Resumes

The Department of Public Health's Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM) is pleased to announce the resumption of the MA Responds Quarterly Newsletter. The newsletter provides information on MA Responds and highlights news from Medical Reserve Corps for volunteers. The Newsletter also includes preparedness information, resources as well as upcoming events and activities.



April 6th Officially Proclaimed as Massachusetts MRC Day!

Nancy Burns, coordinator from the Upper Merrimack Valley MRC brought forth the idea to submit an application for April 6th to be proclaimed as Massachusetts MRC Day. With Nancy's hard work and the MRC steering committee's feedback, the application was submitted in February. The proclamation was approved and was signed by Governor Baker. Therefore, April 6th will officially be Massachusetts MRC Day! The proclamation was a great way to kick off volunteer appreciation week in early April.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 All-Hazards Emergency Management Conference

June 18 & 19, 2019

8:00AM – 4:30PM Daily

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel

Marlborough, MA 01752

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency is pleased to announce the two-day [2019 Massachusetts All Hazards Emergency Preparedness Conference](#). Join more than 600 local, state, federal, private and non-profit sector emergency management and public safety professionals for two days of education, networking, discussion, and information sharing. The intended audience for this event includes local, county, state, and federal Emergency Management, Fire and EMS, Law Enforcement, First Responders, Public Safety, Public Health, Public Works, Government Administration and Elected Officials, Higher Education, Healthcare, Planners, Non-Governmental Organizations, Private Industry, and related partners.

The conference will offer interactive presentations as well as plenary, panel and break-out sessions with experts in emergency management, disaster response, terrorism, climatology, environmental protection, and more to showcase and share model practices, tools and technologies, and lessons learned. More than 30 breakout sessions will be offered, in addition to the following:

There is no cost to attend the conference. Interested participants must register using [MEMA's online Training Registration System](#). All registrations must be completed no later than June 1, 2019. To ensure diverse participation, all

registrants will be placed on a wait list and will be notified of acceptance in advance of the conference registration deadline. Once approved, participants will receive a confirmation email via the MEMA Training Registration System.

MA Responds Orientation Curriculum

The course provides an overview on how to prepare for and respond to a public health emergency or other event. It is intended to complement additional training volunteers will receive their local MRC unit or other volunteer group. Modules include: Public Health Preparedness, Incident Command System, Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication, Personal Preparedness, Activation, Safety and Security, Individuals with Disabilities or Access and Functional Needs, and Disaster Mental Health. Volunteers are able to request a certificate of completion when they finish the MA Responds on-line curriculum learning modules. A certificate will be sent to volunteers via email. The course can be accessed by going to: www.massmed.org/intro/maresponds.

DeValle Institute Learning Center

The [DeValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness](#) delivers training and education related to the work of the Office of Public Health Preparedness. Courses include self-paced trainings, instructor-led trainings, as well as videos, articles, and resources.

PREPAREDNESS NEWS AND RESOURCES

National Stop the Bleed Month

May is the first ever National Stop the Bleed Month, featuring training courses around the country to teach bleeding control techniques to the general public and empower them with the skills and knowledge to assist severely bleeding persons. During this month, an additional focus will be directed to May 23, which is the nation's second annual National Stop the Bleed Day. To learn more, go to: <https://nationalstopthebleeday.org> and www.bleedingcontrol.org.

Download the Stop the Bleed APP

The 'Stop the Bleed' app provides instant access to instruction on differentiating life-threatening bleeding from nonlife threatening bleeding, and how to apply tourniquets to stop bleeding. In an actual emergency, bystanders can open the app for step-by-step instruction on how to help – there's even an audio version so they can freely use their hands while helping another individual who may be bleeding profusely. The app also features tutorial videos to teach users how to correctly apply tourniquets and includes other useful resources to empower individuals to "Stop the Bleed" and save a life in an emergency. As part of these efforts, the new "Stop the Bleed" app is designed to educate users on what to do in an emergency, and how to determine the severity of bleeding. Download the free app from [Google](#) and [Apple iTunes](#).

U.S. Measles Outbreaks Are Driven by A Global Surge In The Virus

In 2000, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared measles "eliminated" from the United States. But with measles continuing to spread and at times flourish in many parts of the globe, the U.S. has been unable to remain immune to the disease. Read more [here](#).

Tick Season has Arrived in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is reminding residents to think about ticks during their outdoor plans. "Tick-borne illnesses can be severe and taking steps to avoid tick bites is important," state epidemiologist Catherine Brown said in a statement. "The best ways to protect yourself are to use a tick repellent

with permethrin or DEET when you are outdoors, do tick checks on yourself, your children and your pets every day, and remove any attached ticks promptly.” The department recommends using bug repellents on skin and clothing to keep ticks away. Ticks can be removed with tweezers, and people should call their doctor if they have been bitten by a black-legged tick or experience symptoms after the bite.

More information about ticks in Massachusetts can be found [here](#).

Public Health Preparedness: 2018 National Snapshot

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Center for Preparedness and Response leads the agency’s preparedness and response activities by providing strategic direction, support, and coordination for activities. This [report](#) highlights how the Center for Preparedness and Response works to strengthen the nation’s health security to save lives and protect against public health threats.

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