

# MRC Newsletter

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Fit Testing Begins at the CPACS
- Staff Spotlight
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Resources: MRC Manual – Our Mission
- Courses and Learning
- Joke of the Day
- FAQs
- Contact Us

## FIT TESTING BEGINS AT THE CPACS

Our team is starting to reach out to the volunteers willing to work in the Red Zone to schedule N95 Fit Testing. Currently, fit testing is only for the medical volunteers who have completed the on-boarding process including attending one of our Just In Time trainings. If you are not contacted initially, don't worry, any person going into the red zone will be fit tested before their first shift. Our team will contact you when it is time for you to be fit tested.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

A recent graduate of Georgetown University's Biohazardous Threat Agents & Emerging Infectious Diseases MS Program, Maya Craig-Lauer moved from Lexington, Kentucky to work at the SLO County Public Health Department as an Emergency Preparedness Specialist. She hasn't spent much time in that role, however. After starting her job on March 16th, she immediately started working on the COVID-19 response as part of the volunteer coordination team. She is the County's MRC Coordinator as part of her normal duties. As a six-year member of the Medical Reserve Corps who has served in the Bluegrass and the Washington, D.C. Region, she understands the value of MRC volunteering. She likes to relax at home with her cat Basil and albino Ball Python Mika. The book "The Andromeda Strain" by Michael Crichton helped her discover her passion in infectious disease when she read it in high school. When you see her at the CPACS, she is often wearing a mask that matches her outfit because sewing is one of her many hobbies. She takes after her seamstress grandmother who made racing silks for horses and jockeys. Even though she just moved here, Maya is happy to serve the SLO community and call it her home.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Dan Culhane is a volunteer serving as a Chief Medical Officer of the CPACS. He didn't think twice about helping at the CPACS because San Luis Obispo County is, in his own words, "my community and home." His pride of the robust medical system touted by the area makes him dedicated to preserve and sustain it. Dan is an emergency physician who has practiced in SLO County since the 90s. He has been the emergency department director at French Hospital and Arroyo Grande Hospital and has worked in the medical community in numerous capacities. When he isn't running marathons and flying his airplane, Dan likes to fly fish in the Sierras, play music on "things with strings," and spend time with his family, including his new granddaughter Lily (who is turning one year old today! Happy first birthday, Lily!). A book that has resonated with him since he was young is "Sometimes a Great Notion" by Ken Kesey. Dan wants the volunteers to know the importance of them stepping up — it says a lot about them and the community. He said that healthcare workers are given the privilege of helping others, and this is a part of that.



## RESOURCES: MRC MANUAL – OUR MISSION

The mission of the County of San Luis Obispo Medical Reserve Corps is to develop partnerships with medical professionals (active and retired) that aid in the education, training and deployment of citizen volunteers and resources in the event of a large scale, local emergency.

In addition, the County of San Luis Obispo Medical Reserve Corps will be utilized to enlist citizen volunteers to assist in the establishment of an organized pool of resources capable of being deployed to support Emergency Management Systems already in place in the event of a major emergency.

The goal of the SLOMRC will be that of a support role providing volunteer medical professionals and resources to augment those services in the community that are engaged in the health and welfare of the citizenry.

## COURSES & LEARNING

In this issue, we want to tell our volunteers about [the Disaster Healthcare Volunteers \(DHV\) website](#) and its rising importance to the CPACS' mission. The DHV website is a tool we use to organize and schedule volunteers. Moving forward, we will be using the DHV for sending out volunteer opportunities and scheduling the CPACS if needed. It is extremely important that our volunteers sign up for a DHV account and choose "San Luis Obispo County Medical Reserve Corps" as their organization.

On Thursday, we were able to test this system by staffing an upcoming test site for COVID-19 exposed individuals. The system allowed for those notified to quickly and easily respond with their availability. This will be critical should the CPACS need to open.

If you have not joined the DHV website, follow the instructions on the attached document to sign up.

## JOKE OF THE DAY

Where do sheep go on vacation?

The Baaaaahamas!



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Does CPACS have any plans to take patients in the next two weeks?**

Currently, local hospitals have the capacity for all COVID patient needs. It is unlikely that this will change in the next two weeks. However, the CPACS maintains readiness to accept patients at any time.

**Q: Do non-medical volunteers need to sign up on the DHV website?**

Even though there are not many MRC opportunities for non-medical volunteers at the moment, we would still like them to create a DHV account. When opportunities do arise in the future, this is how non-medical and medical volunteers will be notified.

## CONTACT US

If you have a joke for the next newsletter, want to nominate someone for a volunteer spotlight, or have any questions or concerns, send us an email to [hr\\_alternate\\_care\\_site@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:hr_alternate_care_site@co.slo.ca.us) or call us at (805) 781-1722.