



## Board of Chosen Freeholders

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 17, 2019

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## Volunteer Hunterdon Medical Reserve Corps Adds To Emergency Preparedness For County

The Hunterdon County Health Department's citizen based Medical Reserve Corps is a key added component of the County emergency preparedness program, Freeholder Sue Soloway, the Board's liaison for the Health Department, reported at a recent Freeholder meeting.

Soloway stated, "As we recognize September as Emergency Preparedness Month, I believe it is important to recognize the Hunterdon County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), a group comprised of residents who are both medically-trained and non-medical volunteers, who add to the reach and depth of the County's ability to respond to health emergencies."

Soloway noted, "These are volunteers whose critical assistance plays a valuable role in the County emergency preparedness programming. The MRC volunteers have most recently participated in a full-scale mass medication distribution at Spruce Run Recreation Area in May and a tabletop exercise on preparing, planning and preventing a measles outbreak in June.

The eighty-four MRC members, of which fifty-two are medical professionals, participate in drills, trainings, and other emergency preparedness exercises throughout the year. The Freeholders commend these volunteers for their unselfish service."

Hunterdon County Department of Health Director Karen DeMarco, who is also the County's Health Officer, stated, "The Hunterdon County MRC is a ready-to-go unit that can be dispatched quickly to public health emergencies anywhere in the county. Our unit includes health professionals, either practicing or retired, as well as non-medical volunteers.

The MRC is always welcoming of new volunteers. Community groups and residents who are interested in participating with and/or gaining emergency training are invited to learn more about the MRC by contacting the Health Department for more information."

The Hunterdon County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is one of 24 MRC units in New Jersey — and one of 997 across America — formed to respond to local community needs during wide-scale public health emergencies. Nearly 208,000 volunteers serve in MRC units in all 50 states — plus Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.