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**County Council builds Medical Reserve Corps**  
*Residents can volunteer to help during a public health emergency*

Delaware County Council continues to build a Medical Reserve Corps, a team of local volunteers who can assist during a major public health emergency.

An initial orientation session for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was held in 2010 for medical professionals and non-medically qualified volunteers interested in being a part of the MRC.

Ongoing orientation sessions are being conducted by the County Department of Intercommunity Health (ICH) with two sessions scheduled this spring. People can attend an orientation from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, or 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, May 23. Both events will be held at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit, 200 Yale Ave., Morton.

MRC volunteers can be medically qualified professionals such as nurses, physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, social workers, physician assistants, medics, psychiatrists and psychologists. They may also be non-medically qualified individuals across a broad range of skills including logistics, security and communications.

Participants attend trainings in first aid, public health preparedness and general emergency response. They also participate in important exercises that test the County's emergency response plans.

The national MRC initiative was established after the events of Sept. 11, 2001 to give citizens an opportunity to assist in emergency preparedness and response. The MRC is a branch of Citizen Corps. People can register for the MRC through the state's Web site at <https://www.serv.pa.gov>.

As part of the registration process, there is a place to indicate you want to sign up with the Delaware County MRC unit.

To register for the MRC orientation sessions, call Peggy Stuart at (610) 891-5311.