

medical
reserve
corps



ST. CLAIR COUNTY MRC

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy,
Prepared Communities



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
St Clair County
Health Department
together for your health.

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REGION 5 COVID-19 RESPONSE



More than 500 MRC units in 48 states, have been engaged in COVID-19 response activities. MRC volunteers are supporting a myriad of response roles and tasks depending on local community need.

Our unit alone has contributed over 1360 hours to better serve our community assisting the Covid-19 vaccination response in 2021! Our volunteers have assisted at our mass vaccination site, call center operations, and logistic support. GREAT JOB!

Thank you!

Be in the know: COVID-19 Vaccinations

A safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is a critical component of the U.S. strategy to reduce COVID-19-related illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Vaccines are now widely available. In most cases, you do need an appointment.

All currently authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines:

- Are SAFE
- Are EFFECTIVE, and
- REDUCE YOUR RISK of severe illness.

Neither the CDC or IDPH recommend one vaccine over the other. You are encouraged to get whichever COVID-19 vaccine is available to you as soon as possible.

There is no co-pay for individuals with insurance and no charge for the uninsured.

[Click HERE for COVID-19 vaccine information for children](#)

[Click HERE for COVID-19 vaccine information for adults 18+](#)

[To make an appointment, click HERE](#)

Appointments are required for ages 5-11 (Must be accompanied by parent of guardian)



IDPH CENTRALIZING COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING

COVID-19 cases will receive a text message from IDPH

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

SPRINGFIELD -As we head into 2022, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is working to centralize COVID-19 contact tracing efforts in order to get information about isolation and identifying close contacts to infected individuals as soon as possible during times when cases are surging, and to decrease the burden on local health departments across the state. Beginning today, December 28, 2021, all positive cases entered into the State's data systems associated with a cell phone number will receive an automated text message from IDPH. The initial outgoing text will read:

IDPH COVID: There is important info for you. Call 312-777-1999 or click: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/confirmed-or-possible-covid-19.html>

"Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve as does the virus," said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "We are seeing a higher number of new infections each day than we have seen at any time throughout the entire pandemic. In an effort to reduce the burden on the local health departments across the state, the State will notify cases via text about interviewing with a contact tracer, as well as providing a link to guidance on quarantine, possible treatments, and close contact notification. There have been scams associated with COVID-19 and contact tracing so I want people to know that IDPH COVID will be issuing text messages to newly identified cases."



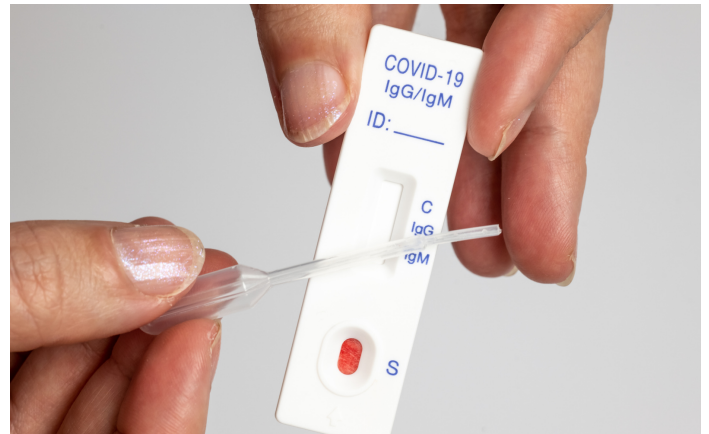
Individuals who call the number in the text will be considered as "opting in" for an interview. Public health officials will prioritize case investigations for individuals who are 65 years and older and are at higher risk of severe illness, per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. This population will receive an additional text message if the individual does not respond to the initial message.

While most confirmed cases will be traced through the State Contact Tracing Surge Center, local health departments will continue to respond to cases in high-risk settings, including congregate facilities. Local health departments will also be able to see details about cases so they can identify any potential clusters or outbreaks and can request those cases be transferred from the Surge Center for further contact tracing. Additionally, local health departments will continue to have oversight of schools, daycares, and congregate setting, including assistance with mitigation strategies and outbreak management.

To find more related articles, please visit [HERE](#)

FREE COVID TEST KITS AVAILABLE NOW

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests.



The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Order your tests now so you have them when you need them. Click the link below to order your 4 free tests.

[Order Free At-Home Tests](#)

If you need a COVID-19 test now, please see other testing resources for free testing locations in your area. Visit this website for more information about the tests and other available resources.

<https://www.covidtests.gov>



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COVID SCAMMERS

Be careful! Scammers are selling fake and unauthorized at-home COVID-19 test kits in exchange for your personal or medical information.

- Make sure to purchase FDA approved COVID-19 test kits from legitimate providers.
- Ignore offers or advertisements for COVID-19 testing or treatments on social media sites.
- If you make an appointment for a COVID-19 test online, make sure the location is an official testing site.
- Do not give your personal or financial information to anyone claiming to offer HHS grants related to COVID-19.
- Be aware of scammers pretending to be COVID-19 contact tracers. Legitimate contact tracers will never ask for your Medicare number, financial information, or attempt to set up a COVID-19 test for you and collect payment information for the test.

If you suspect COVID-19 health care fraud, [report it immediately online](#) or call 800-HHS-TIPS (800-447-8477).

ACTIVE VOLUNTEER ID BADGE

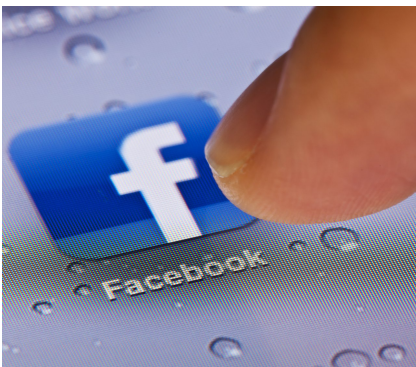
If you have not yet done so, please email a photo to be included on your MRC ID Card. You do not need to have a special photo taken, even a quick picture taken on your cell phone will work. This card will be used to identify you as an emergency worker and should help you if or when you are responding during an incident or serving in the community in a non-emergency public health event. Once complete, your ID will be mailed directly to you. If your address has changed, please email your correct address when sending your picture.



CALL DOWN DRILLS/ IL Helps

Call drills are important as it mimics what it would look like if volunteers needed to be activated in an emergency. Even if you cannot answer right away, feel free to call or email back later. The next call drill will be through IL HELPS (you may receive a text message and/or an email if you provided that information on IL HELPS. Please register there if you haven't yet. (<https://illinoishelps.net/>). If you have any questions on how to do so, please contact me, I will be happy to assist! If you know anyone wanting to volunteer, please refer them to me or IllinoisHelps.net.

Please "Like" and share our Facebook page



CHECK IT OUT!

MRC HOME

MRC TRAIN

IL HELPS



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19 Public Square Suite 201

Belleville, IL 62220

618-825-4450



Life-CPR

FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

Offered by the St.
Clair County
Medical Reserve
Corps

*Get
Certified in
First Aid &
CPR
Program*

*Space is limited.
Register today!*

FREE CPR TRAINING

The St. Clair County Medical Reserve Corps will be offering FREE CPR classes to active MRC members in the months of February and March.

Due to COVID-19, we will be offering training by sending a link for online courses for you to complete. Once the online portion has been completed, please send an email to: kiearra.jones@co.st-clair.il.us. We will then send a form with dates/times that we will offer to hold in-person skills assessments.

INTERESTED? REGISTER [HERE](#)

Illinois Vax Verify System Now Offers SMART™ Health Card Vaccination Verification

Updates to the immunization portal, Vax Verify, now includes the SMART™ Health Card to provide an easy way to share COVID-19 vaccination status

New updates to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Vax Verify immunization portal now includes use of the SMART™ Health Card. The SMART™ Health Card allows users to download a QR code, which individuals can use to easily confirm their COVID-19 vaccination status at businesses, events, and other locations. Vax Verify is an online system that allows Illinois residents 18 years and older to check their COVID-19 vaccination record. Vax Verify can be accessed at

<https://idphportal.illinois.gov>.

“As a way to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep people safer, some businesses, events, organizations, and others are opting to require proof of vaccination before entering,” said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. “We’ve seen multiple surges of COVID-19 and more and more people are making the choice to get vaccinated. The ability to download a QR code will help residents confirm their vaccination status when requested.”

The QR code can be downloaded or kept in Apple Wallet and presented for COVID-19 vaccination verification. Businesses wanting to verify vaccination status can download the Commons Project **[SMART Health Card Verifier App](#)** on Apple AppStore and Google Play store.

The verification system follows best practices to protect confidential health information. In order to download proof of vaccination, residents will go through a brief, one-time identity verification process to gain access to their immunization history.

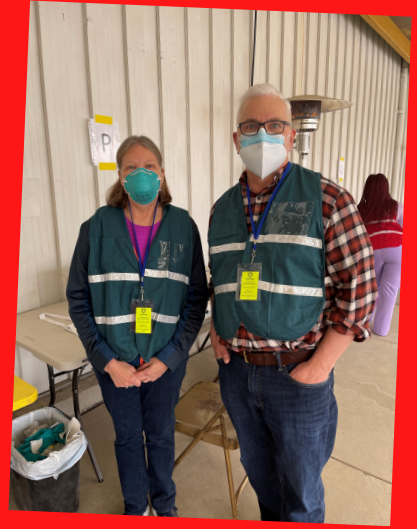
After the verification process, individuals can see their own record in the Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange (I-CARE).

Immunization records are kept confidential and only the individual, or the individual’s parent or guardian if the individual is younger than 18 years, can access their vaccination history. Some individuals with very common names will need to take additional steps to securely prove their identities.

Go to **vaccines.gov** or call **[1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233)** to find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you.



WWW.IDPHPORTAL.ILLINOIS.GOV/



“ Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?” — Martin Luther King, Jr. ”



No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another.