

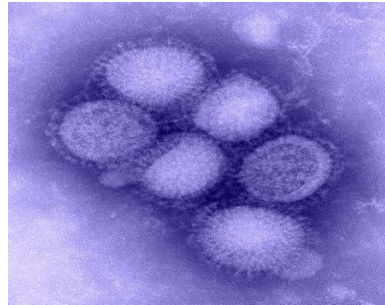
## Director's News

The H1N1 Influenza Pandemic is in full swing, and our region, like most across the country, is working hard to prevent the spread of this disease. Ohio is reporting widespread H1N1 activity, and the federal region containing Ohio continues to report a higher than normal rate of influenza like illness in patients. There is some indication that influenza activity has peaked in the Northern Hemisphere, with the exception of Canada and the northeastern United States. If this pandemic follows the pattern of other past pandemics, we can expect additional waves of H1N1 to affect the community in the coming months.

Several local jurisdictions have utilized TMRC volunteers in H1N1 related activities, primarily as workers in school based H1N1 vaccination clinics. In our region, over 500 volunteer positions have been filled by the TMRC.

I strongly encourage each of you to take some important steps to increase our ability as TMRC volunteers to respond to public health emergencies. If you have not already done so, please log in to the Volunteer Mobilizer (<https://www.ohioresponds.odh.ohio.gov/>) to verify that we have the most current and accurate contact information for you.

With the ongoing public health response



H1N1 Virus

and the activation of several local TMRC units, the TMRC has been getting some recognition in the local news outlets. With H1N1 and influenza pandemics are fresh in the minds of the public and media, we hope to use this increased awareness to advertize and recruit more TMRC volunteers from the community.

To those who have volunteered so far, thanks for your help and support. For those of you in jurisdictions that have not yet called the TMRC for assistance, continue to monitor your phone and email for further information and any local TMRC activations.

Sincerely,

Jared Warner

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## Announcements

### ID Cards

As a reminder, photo ID Cards are available to volunteers who have attended an introduction to the MRC course, signed up on the state database as a volunteer, and had their medical licenses validated (if applicable).

If you have already had your photo taken, please contact your local [TMRC Unit Leader](#). Some recent technological problems have limited our ability to print and distribute photo ID cards. The TMRC leadership will be making an effort to address this issue and continue providing photo ID Cards to our volunteers.



## H1N1 Influenza Links and Resources

As a member of the Tristate Medical Reserve Corps, it is important that you stay up to date with the latest H1N1 information. The following links will help you learn what your state and federal governments are doing to respond to this pandemic, and will provide useful resources and information that you can pass on to your friends and family.

### Local Websites with H1N1 Information

[Northern Kentucky](#), [Butler County](#), [Cincinnati](#), [Clermont County](#), [Highland County](#), [Hamilton City](#), [Hamilton County](#), [Warren County](#)

### H1N1 State and Federal Links

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Main H1N1 Information Page

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

Ohio Department of Health H1N1 Page

<http://www.flu.ohio.gov>

Indiana State Department of Health

<http://www.in.gov/flu/>

Kentucky Department of Health

<http://healthalerts.ky.gov>

*A special thanks go to those who were able to help work at this clinic.*

## Clermont County Drive Thru Flu Clinic

On September 19th, Clermont County General Health District held its first ever drive through seasonal influenza clinic at the Clermont County Fairgrounds. During the clinic, over 220 seasonal influenza shots were given as people drove through the fairgrounds.

In order to provide all of these influenza vaccinations, the Clermont County General Health District called out the Tristate Medical Reserve Corps. Approximately 80 TMRC volunteers worked at the clinic, which ran from 9:30am to 11:30am. Upon arrival, volunteers and staff had to report to a volunteer reception center and attend an initial briefing from the Health Department staff.

Throughout the clinic, non-medical volunteers worked in traffic control, logistics, registration, and other areas. Medical volunteers worked in a large drive through building to provide vaccinations to clinic patients. Clermont County staff from several different county agencies also participated in the event.

This exercise provided a valuable opportunity for Clermont County and the TMRC to work together and learn more about drive through dispensing operations. In public health planning, drive through clinics are one of several options for the rapid dissemination of medication. Through this exercise, Clermont County Health Department will be better able to set up a drive through clinic in a real emergency, or as a part of another dispensing effort.

A special thanks go to those who were able to help work at this clinic.

## Personal Protective Equipment Levels

Those who have been following the H1N1 response have probably read about levels of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) required for healthcare worker safety. For those unfamiliar with these levels of protection, the following is a basic review of PPE levels:

**Level D** consists of standard work clothes without a respirator. In hospitals, level D consists of surgical gown, mask, and latex gloves (universal precautions). Level D provides limited respiratory protection and only minimal skin protection.

**Level C** consists of an Air Purifying Respirator (APR) or Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPRS) and non-encapsulated chemical-resistant clothing, gloves, and boots. Level C personal protective equipment provides the same level of skin protection as level B, with a lower level of respiratory protection. Level C

PPE is used when the type of airborne exposure is known to be guarded against adequately by an APR.

**Level B** consists of a positive-pressure respirator (self-contained breathing apparatus or supplied-air respirator) and non-encapsulated chemical-resistant garments, gloves, and boots, which guard against chemical splash exposures. Level B PPE provides the highest level of respiratory protection with a lower level of skin protection.

**Level A** consists of a self-contained breathing apparatus and a totally encapsulating chemical-protective (TECP) suit. Level A personal protective equipment provides the highest level of respiratory, eye, mucous membrane, and skin protection.



Level B PPE

## Tristate Community Animal Rescue Team

When a disaster strikes, do you have a plan for all the affected animals? Are the people you have tasked with helping the animals prepared, willing and able to assist the large numbers of animals that might be affected? Are they able to help all types of animals from household pets to farm animals to exotics so that the evacuation of the people can be done more smoothly and safely?

Tri-State CART (County Animal Response Team) was developed to fill such a role. Our trained responders work with local agencies, individuals and organizations to assist them in the rescue, temporary care and the return of ANY type of animal before, during and after a local disaster.

Dealing with the animals that may be affected is a large undertaking that involves a lot of planning. Pre-disaster agreements need to be made with locations that can house large numbers of pets and separate suitable locations for farm animals. The local shelters are almost always at maximum capacity even before a disaster situation, and often their volunteers are affected by the disaster and unable to help, so alternatives need to be established and written agreements obtained in advance of a disaster. Finding locations within easy walking distance of Red Cross shelters will allow for "co-location shelters" which let the owners continue to care for their own animals, reducing stress on both and reducing the numbers of volunteers needed. Tri-State CART knows what is needed and can help with that task if asked.

If an evacuation order is declared or if a disaster strikes without warning, the animals will need to be moved to a safe place (one of those pre-established locations.) The public will need to be advised of where that location is as well. Moving the animals can involve various modes of transportation and animal confinement. Having established agreements for large numbers of crates of various sizes, trucks, horse trailers, livestock trailers, etc. will greatly speed this process getting the rescuers out of harms way as quickly as possible.

The feeding, exercising, crate/cage cleaning and medical care for the sick, injured, elderly, pregnant, etc. needs to be done daily. Tri-State CART has agreements with area vets and specialists to provide help with the care of all types of animals including exotics, reptiles, wildlife and livestock. We also have MOU's with each of the nationally respected response groups: American Humane Association (AHA), United Animal Nations (UAN), Code 3 and the PetSmart Charities Rescue Waggin. These groups can provide additional assistance with rigs full of supplies and/or trained individuals within 48 hours of notice.

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## Tristate Medical Reserve Corps

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2100 Sherman Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45212  
Phone: 513-515-8594  
E-mail: [mrc@gchc.org](mailto:mrc@gchc.org)

Be Prepared. Be Informed. Be Involved.

Visit us at  
[www.tristatemrc.org](http://www.tristatemrc.org)

## Tristate CART Continued...

We can only respond if requested by an Emergency Manager, authorized Fire Chief or authorized Police Chief. In Ohio, those officials would contact the Ohio Veterinary Emergency Responders (O.V.E.R.) who would then activate us. In Kentucky and Indiana, calls can be made directly to the Tri-State CART hotline. Tri-State CART operates under the ICS system and we require certain levels of training for all our volunteers: IC-100, 200, 700 and 800 and registration with Serve Ohio, Indiana General Volunteers and O.V.E.R. We highly recommend one of the courses given by the national response agencies and many of our volunteers have met that level of training. We hold bi-monthly meetings that include free training sessions for our volunteers on topics like large animal handling, physical and mental preparation for response, mock shelter drills and volunteer safety.

Tri-State CART has a lot to offer and we have been getting acceptance and recognition in all three states. If you need help with your plan for the animals or would like to hear more about what we can offer, please contact us! Our website also has extensive information about us and helps to educate the public on preparedness, which is a large part of what we do when not directly helping animals. We look forward to hearing from you!

Tri-State CART  
[www.TriStateCART.com](http://www.TriStateCART.com)  
P.O. Box 158  
Harrison, OH 45030  
(513) 702-8373



## Volunteer Spotlight—Scott Brooks

In each Spotlight, we highlight a volunteer and ask about that volunteer's involvement in the TMRC. This week, we hear from Scott Brooks, a member of our volunteer leadership team.

### How long have you been involved in the TMRC?

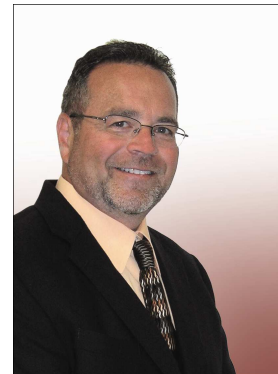
I have been involved since I attended a presentation on the TMRC program at a Be Prepared Event just days after our massive midwestern windstorm. It was clear to me from dealing with the windstorm and recognizing the possibility of another kind of disaster or terrorist attack where local first responder agencies could be overwhelmed that we needed to rely on ourselves, with the direction of local governments and local health agencies.

### What advice would you give other volunteers?

Be involved, go to every training event you can and try to develop relationships with other volunteers. It can be surprisingly fun.

### Has being involved in the TMRC changed your perception of public health or your role in your community?

Being in the TMRC and attending some disaster drills has changed my perception of public health. I didn't realize before how lucky we are in the general public to have so many of our local health officials always planning scenarios and working ways to improve response to a possible crisis. Also learning about the actual resources for local disaster relief was reassuring, such as the 210 bed Alternative Care Center (tent hospital) that can be transported and set up in minutes.



Recently in the TMRC I have participated in one of the most important activities for pandemic preparedness; that being helping in a non-medical capacity registering children for vaccination in some Cincinnati Schools. I have enjoyed being able to contribute through the TMRC towards protecting local children from an unpredictable virus. At one of the bigger schools there were tables of volunteers processing hundreds of kids. It was very rewarding.