

# MRCSA NEWS



Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Arizona

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## Preparing You to Respond!

### “Volunteer Readiness Workshop”

- Saturday, February 10
- Abrams Public Health Center
- 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Volunteer Readiness Checklist  
 Core Competencies  
 Personal Safety  
 Infection Control  
 Immunizations

“The Language of MRC”  
 HIPAA in Emergencies  
 ESAR-VHP

And much more!

## Our Partners in Action

MRCSA is proud to partner with agencies and organizations that join us in serving communities in Pima County and across Southern Arizona.

*The Southern Arizona Interagency Peer Support Team* recently concluded a three day Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) for thirty first responders.

ICSAVE joins us on February 17 as we introduce emergency preparedness and response to students from the U of A College of Nursing. *The Southern Arizona Interagency Peer Support Team* will provide CISM training for area schools in August.

*“Do something today to better others and yourself.”*

*- Leroy A. Petry  
United States Army  
Medal of Honor*

**Mark your calendars for Friday, March 2.**

**Our partners in the NDMS (National Disaster Medical System) will be conducting a medical emergency evacuation exercise from 7:00 am to 12:00 noon. MRCSA has been asked to support the exercise by recruiting 50 volunteer victims to be transported to area hospitals.**

**If you are interested and available to participate, contact us at 520-445-7035.**

## Day Zero

There are important lessons to be learned for all of us from the current status of Cape Town, South Africa.

As we continue to consider our own plans for emergency and disaster preparedness, we need to be aware of more than wildfires and monsoon storms together with seasonal flu and other events typical to Southern Arizona.

Drought in South Africa has depleted their water reserves. Conversation now is an imperative. The alternative may lead to their scenario; Day Zero when there is no water.

## MRCSA Volunteer Handbook 2.0

A newly revised and updated MRCSA handbook for volunteers will be previewed at the February 10 workshop. Look for the handbook to be available both in print at the May workshop and on the MRCSA website.

## Your Opinion Counts!

Your MRCSA Leadership Team has developed a brief survey to help us better address your interests and needs as we continue to build the best trained and equipped volunteer corps in Arizona. Please take a few minutes to respond to the 10 survey questions.

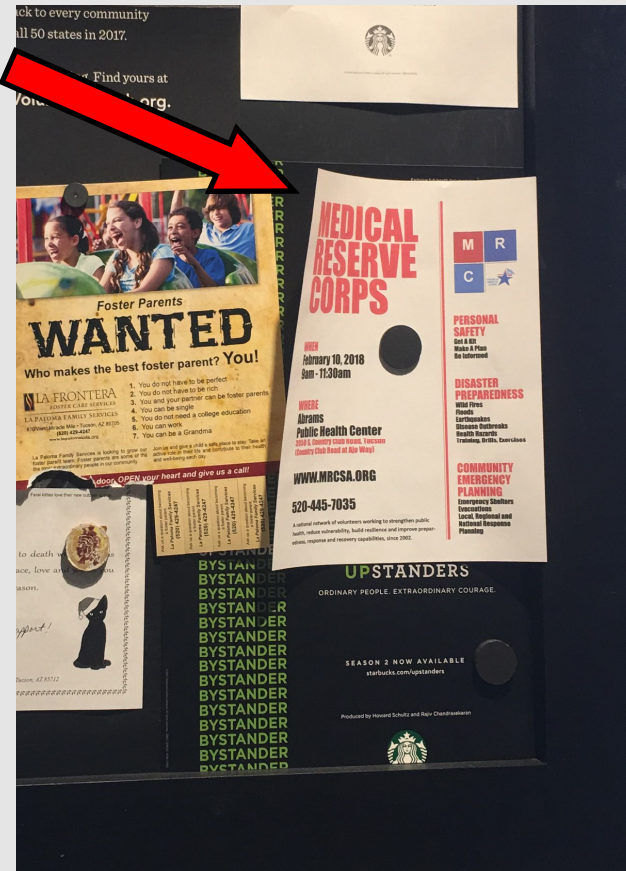
**The survey is open now. The average responder takes only 2 minutes to complete the survey.**  
**Please check your spam or junk mail file if you have not seen it in your in box.**

## Have You Seen MRCSA at Starbucks?

Seen an MRCSA flyer at your favorite Starbucks?

Send a photo to [mrksa@outlook.com](mailto:mrksa@outlook.com) with the Starbucks location or tag MRCSA on Facebook.

Thanks to MRCSA Board members Barbara Craig for reaching out to the community with flyers at area Starbucks and Keith Boesen for catching a flyer with his iPhone.



## The Other Virus

Most people who get the flu this season are getting sick with the H3N2 strain. But a smaller portion of people (around 10 to 15 percent) are getting the H1N1 strain or the influenza B virus, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For the past five flu seasons, health officials found that flu activity was elevated for around 16 weeks. So far this season, flu activity has been elevated for nine weeks, meaning that the flu season may be only about halfway over, according to the CDC.

## 1918-2018

Could a 1918-like Pandemic appear again? If so, what could we do about it?

As we enter the century anniversary year of the great 1918 pandemic, MRCSA will conduct a series of workshops, drills and exercises to help us better understand and prepare to support the community.

## The dangerous evolution of HIV

Think we're winning the battle against HIV? Maybe not, as the next wave of drug-resistant viruses arrives. In an eye-opening talk, TED Fellow Edsel Salvana describes the aggressive HIV subtype AE that's currently plaguing his home of the Philippines -- and warns us about what might become a global epidemic.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/edsel\\_salvana\\_the\\_dangerous\\_evolution\\_of\\_hiv](https://www.ted.com/talks/edsel_salvana_the_dangerous_evolution_of_hiv)

## How Much \$\$\$ Did They Save Our County?

The Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center experts state that they keep 70% of emergency callers at home. At \$1,500 per ER visit, this is an annual savings statewide of \$14,327,355. In Pima County, the estimated savings eclipses \$7,000,000.

The 24 hr. Poison and Drug Information number is 1-800-222-1222.



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