

# THE CALL

June, 2020 Newsletter



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**As always, we are grateful for your willingness to serve during times of disasters. Thank you!**

## There's no over-stating it —

Volunteers have been busy! Some have been working hard on the front lines while others have worked from home. The phrases “in this together...separately” and “new temporary normal” are being spoken by everyone.

Across Missouri, many of you as volunteers have stepped up in your communities to help as needed. Volunteer work during COVID 19 has included packing and delivering food (more than 21,800 boxes of food and supplies to people in the St. Louis area alone!). Traffic control assistance, staffing call centers, assisting with homeless population needs, coordinating volunteer reception centers, sewing and distributing masks, sharing supplies across regions... the list is long and exemplifies the whole-community approach of Missouri volunteering during these unprecedented times. There may be several opportunities to volunteer in your community. Please check with your local volunteer agencies to see what opportunities are available.

## Missouri During COVID 19

Barbara Williams of Bollinger County MRC delivering Fit Test Kits to Cape Girardeau County MRC.



**The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)** has also been working hard to ensure that our 1st Responders and medical personnel are staying safe by distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). PPE has been distributed to the medical community by ordering from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and 1st responders have had PPE purchased by the Dept. of Public Safety for them.

Many SEMA employees transitioned from our usual office space to working in the warehouse alongside our logistics, operations, and Strategic National Stockpile personnel. The Department of Health and Senior Services likewise sent staff to the warehouse to assist with the constant stream of orders coming through for Missouri hospitals.

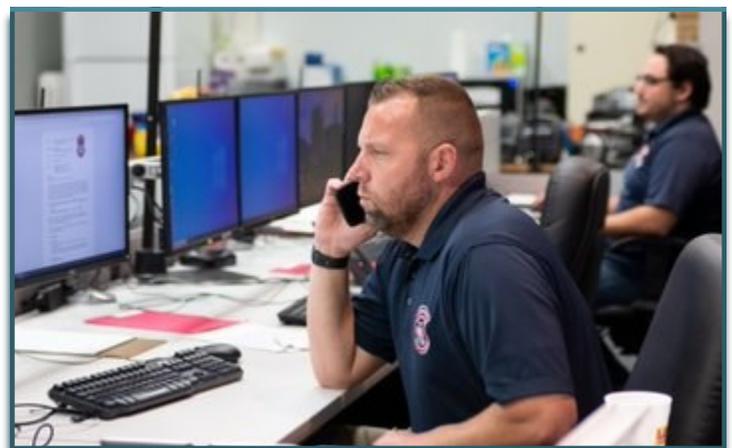
To see the state's operations, here's a video on SEMA warehousing: <https://it-it.facebook.com/MissouriSEMA/videos/yesterday-was-an-active-day-at-the-warehouse/149501049815909/>



In the first week of June the SNS program shipped over 700 parcels of PPE to health care facilities and providers per day and hit our second highest day of shipments with 1500+ on Wednesday, June 3, 2020.

We worked with the State Public Health Lab, DMAT and MONG to deliver Remdesivir to over 35 hospitals throughout the state.

SEMA's Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) has been active since March 17, with round-the-clock coverage by dedicated staff. Monitoring and coordinating requests from around the state, these folks ensure a robust response to Missouri needs.



## **EXERCISE – or REAL EVENT?**

### **Our volunteers are AMAZING!**

As you will recall, our last newsletter outlined an upcoming exercise for April, 2020. The Show-Me Response communication exercise was to be framed around the State of the Missouri and FEMA Region VII New Madrid Seismic Zone Evacuation and Mass Care planning efforts. Of course, as spring unfolded we quickly found ourselves engulfed in a challenging, global public health crisis that is with us still. Show-Me Response was tested in real time.

The objectives we evaluated aligned with the federal requirements of our platform – broadly stated – to assist with varied needs for the provision of care during disaster related response activities across the state of Missouri, including:

- Request Processing of Volunteers
- Mobilization of Volunteers
- Tracking Volunteer Use and Movement
- Demobilization and Recovery

**Activities during March and April** included sending out approximately 24,000 messages. Requests for assistance came for pending / anticipated needs for critical care nurses and respiratory therapists, help with information / call centers, staffing local health departments, staffing long term care facilities, staffing state care facilities, and staffing alternate care sites.

The majority of our efforts ultimately took the form of assisting local organizations, e.g., local health departments, with volunteers rather than deploying volunteers from the state level. One crucial exception was Megan Ashby, respiratory therapist and heroic volunteer! See her story here: [https://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/coronavirus/health-care-volunteers-step-up-in-missouri-to-help-fight-covid-19-save-lives/article\\_3afd8868-9ebb-54d6-86f1-249ad5d225da.html](https://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/coronavirus/health-care-volunteers-step-up-in-missouri-to-help-fight-covid-19-save-lives/article_3afd8868-9ebb-54d6-86f1-249ad5d225da.html)

The specifics of this real event presented unforeseen challenges – some of which included: fear of the unknown surrounding this novel disease understandably increasing hesitancy, the extreme and pressing need NOT to draw volunteers away from local sponsoring organizations such as local Medical Reserve Corps units, and competition for healthcare staff occurring across the county, with states such as New York and California recruiting broadly and paying lucrative wages.

While the above presents a brief snapshot of early response activities of the Show-Me Response platform, we are, of course, still in the midst of this global pandemic. We stand ready to assist in whatever capacity we are asked. Ready – thanks to all of you who are registered volunteers.

# A note from the MRC Coordinator

## Making a Difference

An old man walked up a shore littered with thousands of starfish, beached and dying after a storm. A young man was picking them up and flinging them back into the ocean. "Why do you bother?" the old man scoffed. "You're not saving enough to make a difference." The young man picked up another starfish and sent it spinning back to the water. "Made a difference to that one," he replied.



You can make a difference every day.

I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of our essential workers and volunteers. You may have days that you feel that you don't make a difference but you do even if it is only to one person. You

have been there on the front lines, working long hours and feeling frightened for yourself and your family members. I am here to tell you it is o.k. to have those feelings. You have been healing everyone now it is time for you to heal as well. Remember to take time to make a difference in your life.

The starfish story above has always meant something to me and I have tried to live by it. I try to make a difference in at least one person's life everyday. This could be as simple as a smile to someone, listening to a small child's story that they are excited to share or ensuring that a family has somewhere to sleep while they are starting to recover from a disaster. We have chosen our careers because it was one that we felt that it would feed our soul. We volunteer for the same reason. We will survive this pandemic and possibly come out of it a little more self aware.

COVID is bringing changes to our structure at SEMA and the Division of Emergency Human Services. I will be assuming responsibilities apart from the Medical Reserve Corps beginning July 1, and Pat Curtis will oversee Missouri MRCs in addition to the Show-Me Response program. It has been my pleasure to work with the MRCs—and please remember:

You do make a difference!

**Tina Brown**



"We know what our summer project can be.  
We can start a water slide ministry."

Here's a great summer project....We urge you to take a minute to look at your profile within Show-Me Response.

Please make sure your contact information is current, including your employment status and employment contact numbers so that we can verify clinical experience.

***Thank you!***



National CERT Conference  
**RESCHEDULED!!**

PLEASE NOTE!! The 2020 National CERT Conference Scheduled for 7/13-7/18, 2020 in Springfield, Missouri **has been rescheduled to 7/12 - 7/17 2021.**

Due to the extended impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic we feel it necessary to align with current guidance and recommendations of the CDC and our CERT Community nationwide. While this decision does not come easily, the health and safety of our CERT family and communities are our top priority.

**Reschedule:** The conference committee has worked with the existing Oasis Conference Center to support the health and well-being of all by adjusting the dates to **July 12-17, 2021**. This change will not have any impact to your current dollar amount commitment, or benefit package to the CERT conference.

**Mark your calendars, and come join this exciting national conference—proudly sponsored in 2021 by Missouri CERT!**

## Keeping up with **Coronavirus.....**



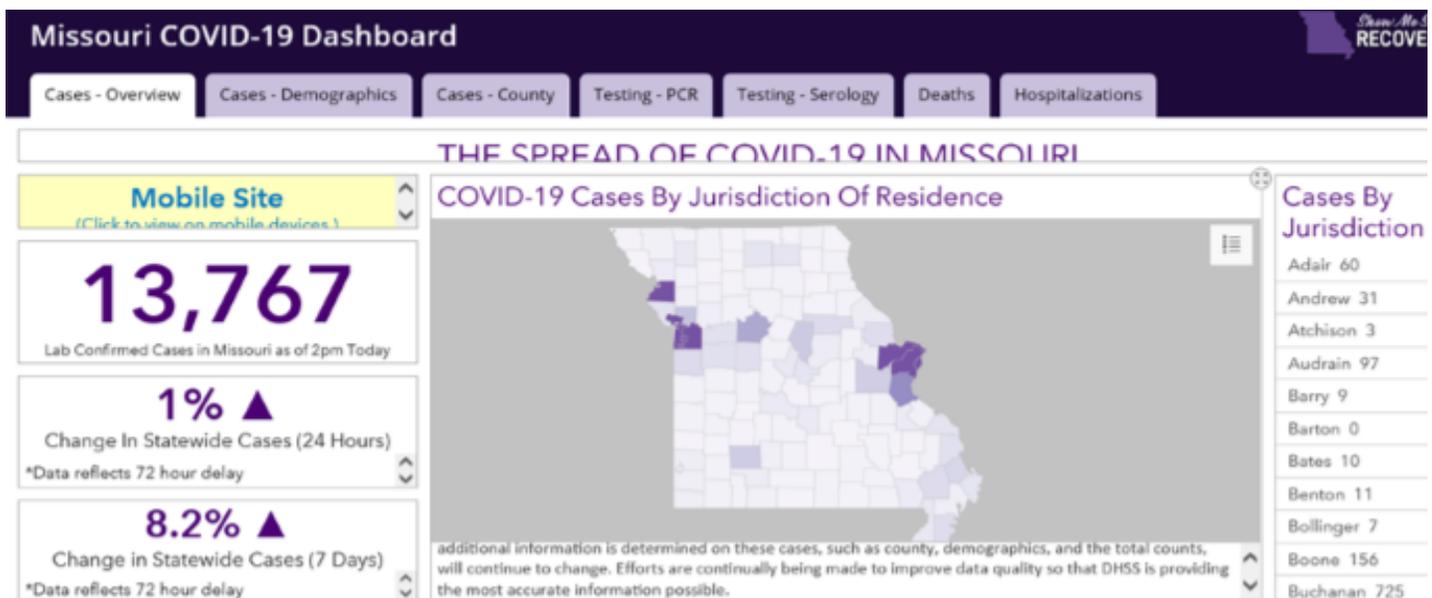
**Missouri specific on-going situational awareness on the Coronavirus can be obtained through the following Missouri Department of Health website:**

<http://mophep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=8e01a5d8d8bd4b4f85add006f9e14a9d>

**CDC Guidance on community spread of virus:**

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fpreparing-individuals-communities.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fpreparing-individuals-communities.html)

SAMPLE OF MAPPING AVAILABLE AT ABOVE LINK:



**Show-Me Response stands ready to assist you with volunteer management and training. Please contact Pat Curtis with your suggestions and/or requests.**

**Patricia.Curtis@sema.dps.mo.gov  
573-526-8637**