

For Immediate Release: October 27, 2006

Contact: Pamela Holstein-Wallace 304-283-7536

### **Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Orientation**

*(Martinsburg, WV—October 27, 2006)*— The Eastern Panhandle Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) will host a volunteer orientation program on Wednesday, November 15 from 7pm to 8:30pm in the Auditorium of the Erma Byrd Health Professions Education Center on the campus of City Hospital. “The Eastern Panhandle Medical Reserve Corps is a community-based corps of volunteers available to supplement the healthcare and public health resources of the Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties”, said Diana Gaviria, MD, MPH, chairperson of the Eastern Panhandle Medical Reserve Corps. The MRC is now recruiting volunteers with healthcare and public health training, as well as individuals with administrative or other support skills.

Major emergencies can overwhelm the capabilities of first responders, particularly during the first 12 to 72 hours. Medical and other health volunteers can provide an important "surge" capacity during this critical period. “Helping one another in times of need is an inherent part of our State’s culture, said Pamela Holstein-Wallace, member of the Eastern Panhandle Medical Reserve Corps and Commissioner for the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service. “This orientation is designed to provide information targeted to healthcare providers and support staff that could respond to a public health emergency”, she said. For more information on how you can get involved, please contact Dr. Diana Gaviria or Pamela Holstein-Wallace at the Berkeley County Health Department 304-263-5131 or email [dianagaviria@wvdhhr.org](mailto:dianagaviria@wvdhhr.org) or [pamhwallace@wvdhhr.org](mailto:pamhwallace@wvdhhr.org).

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