

MARCH 2024 | ISSUE 1

# ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (ECMRC) NEWSLETTER

From the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Thank You
- Trainings
- Eclipse Safety

## WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the first edition of the ECMRC Newsletter. This newsletter will keep ECMRC members informed of events, trainings, volunteer recognition and other items of interest.

### Our Sectors and Leaders

**Communication** - Edward Gutowski

**Logistics** - Guy Kulwanoski

**Mental Health** - Gregory Homish

**Pharmacy** - Ed Bednarczyk

**Spiritual Care** - Pati Aine Guzinski

**Treatment** - Jim Ryan

**Veterinary/CART** - Nicole Gerber

### Contact Us

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[www.erie.gov/ecmrc](http://www.erie.gov/ecmrc)

# THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our ECMRC Volunteers for sharing their skills and time with us. Over the years, our volunteers have put in countless hours to make Erie County stronger and more resilient.

Along with response, ECMRC volunteers share their expertise in community education and pre-deployment trainings.

Deployments have included shelter support, flood response, Points of Dispensing (both large and small), response to Flight 3407, Rabies Vaccine Clinics, and many other events.

During the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic, volunteers stepped forward to help our community stay safe and healthy.

ECMRC members volunteered as vaccinators, scribes, greeters, and provided logistical support.

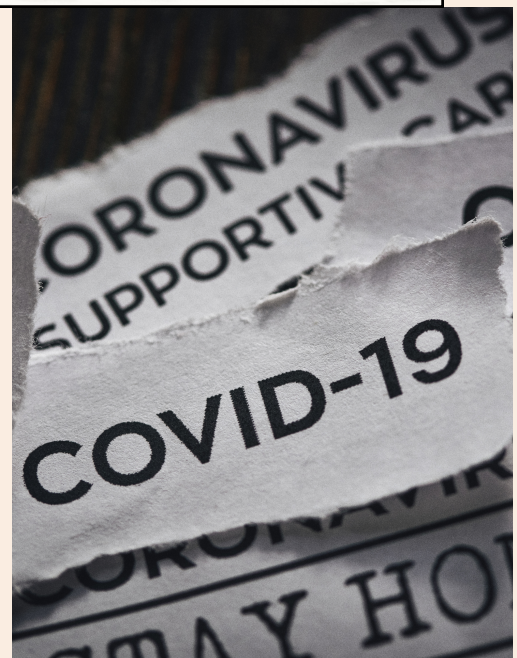
Your passion, kindness, and dedication are an outstanding example of community spirit.

Thank you to our “legacy members” who have stood with us through challenging times. Thank you to our new members for stepping up to enhance our community. We look forward to working with you all!

—  
*“Alone, we can do so little. Together, we can do so much.”*  
- Helen Keller  
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## Did you know?

Erie County Medical Reserve Corps members are part of a network of more than 300,000 volunteers nationwide. They contributed more than 3 million COVID-19 response hours during the pandemic.







## LOOKING AHEAD

**Always check your email for changes or additions of our trainings.** Also, your sector might hold additional meetings and trainings.

The month of May kicks off the summer season with a series of rabies vaccine clinics. As soon as the time/date/place of the clinics are known, we will look to our volunteers to assist. Information will be put on our ECDOH calendar, and the dates and locations sent out to volunteers via ServNY.

## TRAININGS

### For The Second Quarter

#### **March 20, 2024 - Pet First Aid**

**Location:** 500 Commerce Dr. Amherst

**Time:** 6pm-8:30pm

Learn basic first aid skills to assist your pet(s) in an emergency including pet CPR.

#### **March 27, 2024 - Stop The Bleed**

**Location:** 500 Commerce Dr. Amherst

**Time:** 6pm-7:30pm

This training will provide basic skills to stop life-threatening bleeding.

#### **April 25, 2024 - Emergency Response to Terrorism**

**Location:** 500 Commerce Dr. Amherst

**Time:** 6pm-9pm

This training is a **core class** needed for all ECMRC volunteers. Our guest speaker will present an overview of current threats and how to respond safely.

#### **April 23 - ECMRC New Member Orientation**

**Location:** 500 Commerce Dr. Amherst

**Time:** 6pm-7:30pm

Orientation introduces new members to the mission and activities of the ECMRC.

#### **May 18, 2024 - Tents, Trailers, and a PICNIC**

**Location:** Como Park

**Time:** 10am-1pm

Have some fun in the sun while we train on setting up our equipment.

# ECLIPSE KNOWLEDGE AND SAFETY

## What is a solar eclipse?

A solar eclipse occurs when the orbit of the moon brings it between the Sun and Earth. This causes a blockage of sun rays which makes it dark during the day time.

## Why is it dangerous to look at a solar eclipse?

The intensely bright sunlight can cause immediate damage to the retina - the part of the eye responsible for sensing light. The light can burn the retina, preventing it from functioning properly. This damage is called **solar retinopathy** and once it occurs can be **irreversible**.



## Safety Tips for the Eclipse

- Never look directly at the sun without proper eye protection.
- Use safe solar viewing glasses (they are thousands of times darker than regular sunglasses).
- Protect your pets' & infants'/children's eyes.
- Share information with friends and family.
- Predetermine your viewing location and do not randomly pull over on the side of the road.
- ECMRC Team will provide approved safety eclipse glasses at every training up to the event.
- Expect very heavy traffic from tourists.
- You can watch the eclipse indirectly through a pinhole projection technique. For more information visit on how to create your own, visit:
  - <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/project/how-to-make-a-pinhole-camera/>
- An alternative option to directly viewing the eclipse is to watch it via a livestream or TV.

