

MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

FIGURE 1. New York City residents line up for vaccinations during a smallpox vaccination campaign — New York City, 1947



Photo/Associated Press

WHY? In the event of a public health disaster, Madison County Health Department has been designated as the agency which will provide needed medication for our population to **help prevent further spread of disease whenever possible**. A disaster may be a terrorist attack with biological weapons or a natural occurring disease that is especially dangerous.

WHAT WILL I DO? You will help us **only in an emergency**, doing such tasks as dispensing medications, maintaining crowd control, restocking supplies, and/or carrying out clerical duties at one of our designated points of dispensing.

QUALIFICATIONS: We need all kinds of people with all kinds of talents including clerical helpers, people to assist with crowd control, and people to restock supplies. We, also, need licensed professionals such as Dentists, Physicians, Pharmacists, Nurses, and EMTs to dispense medications. You should be in good health because if a public health emergency occurs, you will be called out to work twelve hour shifts on your feet. You should not already be employed or serve in a critical position elsewhere since you cannot be in two places at one time; whomever you are committed to needs to know you will be there when called upon to serve.

COMMITMENT: One Orientation Training session for a few hours to learn about the dispensing process and the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Additional training classes at the Health Department or online may be required in the future.

THE GOAL: Is for health department personnel and our volunteers to practice carrying out the mission. The mission is to receive the drugs from the SNS, take them to our dispensing site(s), and dispense the medications in a timely manner to the people who need them to **help prevent further spread of disease whenever possible**. We are not about taking care of the sick, hospitals will be doing that. The health department's role is to prevent disease so people don't get sick. We have 265,303 people in Madison County who could be impacted and only have thirty-seven employees at the health department. We cannot get this task done alone and we want to be prepared. Please, consider joining the Madison County Health Department Medical Reserve Corps.

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