



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From the Office of Director of Health
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Health Department Recruiting Volunteers to Assist During Influenza Season

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department is seeking volunteers willing to help throughout this year's influenza season. Volunteers may be asked to assist with tasks such as answering phones, recruiting more volunteers, and general office duties.

"Volunteers are a very important part of our community," says regional volunteer coordinator Rebecca Ray. "These individuals play a critical role in sustaining our community and assisting the health department."

The health department launched its volunteer program, Community Heroes, in 2004. Since that time, the health department has been recruiting and training volunteers to assist with public health emergencies. Volunteers are required to submit an application, go through a background check and attend a training session. Volunteers may not be utilized immediately, but Ray adds that it is important for them to be trained before they are activated.

"Having trained volunteers who can respond to the needs of the community is priceless," says Ray. "If we have trained volunteers prior to needing them, we will be able to respond in a much more efficient way."

Volunteer training will be held at the Springfield-Greene County Health Department on the following dates:

Monday, Nov. 2	9:30 a.m.
Saturday, Nov. 7	9:00 a.m.
Monday, Nov. 16	9:30 a.m.

Registration is required by calling 417-874-1297 or by e-mailing volunteerhealth@springfieldmo.gov prior to attending.

For more information about the Community Heroes program, visit www.beacommunityhero.com.

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