

GEORGIA EAST METRO MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

NEWSLETTER

Quick Links



School Screenings

The Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale County Health Departments can provide the immunizations, screenings or record transfers your child needs to attend child care and...

GNR Health /

Georgia Trauma Commission Stop The Bleed Program FAQ

All participating organizations must be trained in STOP THE BLEED. RTAC Coordinators provide free STOP THE BLEED training to any interested organization.

Georgia Trauma Commission

Mission Ready  
MRC GEM Volunteers in Action



February's meeting focused on opioid awareness, vaccine-preventable diseases, and strategies for addressing vaccine hesitancy, along with hands-on training in how to administer Narcan (Naloxone) during a suspected overdose.

North Gwinnett High School's HOSA (Health Occupation Student of America) team attended the Feb meeting. MRC-GEM is the partner for NGHS's 2025-26 year HOSA competition

A Hero Among Us MRC GEM Volunteer  
Spotlight Featuring:  
**Tia Milton, Esq.**

MRC GEM proudly recognizes Tia Milton, Esq. for her dedication and service to our organization and community. As a 2024–2025 Preparedness Sponsor, MVP (Maximum Volunteer Presence) honoree, and one of our COVID-19 Heroes, Tia's commitment, generosity, and leadership reflect the spirit of MRC GEM.



We are grateful for these inspiring leaders and volunteers. We are proud to recognize her as the...

April 2026 MRC GEM Hero Among Us



On March 21, MRC GEM members took part in one of our most popular trainings, focused on Stop the Bleed and disaster first-aid preparedness, where participants assembled customized first-aid kits and received a complimentary Stop the Bleed kit.



MRC-GEM is an all-volunteer nonprofit whose mission is to augment community health operations during large-scale emergencies, aid response to pressing health care needs, and improve community emergency preparedness. Our volunteers speak over 70 different languages and dialects, allowing us to serve Georgia's Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale Counties, a highly diverse population of well over 1.2 million people. COVID is a perfect example.

Heroes aren't born. They Volunteer!

## The Preparedness Pot: Insight & Inside MRC GEM

Where we stir together timely updates, expert insights, and must-know information to keep you ready and in the know.



Sang Nguyen, MPH  
Immunization Health Educator

### A Step Forward

After the last edition, you might be wondering: “How is the Immunization Program at GNR Public Health addressing vaccine hesitancy?” Well, the Immunization Program wanted to take a more personal approach to improving vaccine confidence. Rather than relying solely on broad public messaging, a more personal approach was adopted, focusing on trust, education, and direct community engagement to help community members make informed decisions about vaccinations.

The Immunization Health Educator provides more than just vaccine information. The health educator serves as a bridge between public health and the community, answering questions, addressing concerns, and helping community members better understand vaccine safety, effectiveness, and recommended vaccine schedules. For many, trust plays

a central role in healthcare decisions, including vaccinations; therefore, local faith-based partnerships, community coalitions, schools and childcares, consulates, and private businesses are key to the Immunization Program’s goal of increasing vaccinations. All of these community settings and institutions serve as trusted spaces for community life, where various leaders have strong connections with their respective communities. Utilizing this space, the Immunization Health Educator can have one-on-one conversations with community members, participate in and host health fairs, and share reliable vaccine information in a trusted atmosphere—boosting trust and confidence. By engaging respected community voices, a stronger foundation for vaccine confidence can be built, leading to a healthier, protected community.

Of course, all of this work is further strengthened by the tireless efforts of GNR Public Health’s Community Outreach team, health clinic nurses, and epidemiologists, all of whom provide impactful vaccine recommendations. Education is important, but access is also a piece of the puzzle. The Community Outreach and fellow health clinic nurses help remove barriers to access by bringing vaccines directly to neighborhoods and communities where people live and play. Working together, the health educator and mobile team create a seamless connection among education, outreach, and action, in which individuals engage in crucial vaccine conversations and the mobile team can provide on-site vaccinations—all in the same setting.

This coordinated strategy reflects a strong community-centered approach to addressing vaccine hesitancy and increasing confidence. By combining education and convenient access to care, GNR Public Health is doing more than just increasing vaccination rates. It is building trust, reducing disparities, and ensuring that more community members have the support they need to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.



Sang Nguyen, MPH  
at MRC GEM Feb training.

### Got a Story to Share?

We’d love to hear from you! If you would like to submit an article to be considered for the MRC GEM Newsletter, please email Stacia Wilson at [stacia@mrcgem.com](mailto:stacia@mrcgem.com)

Your contributions help keep our community informed, engaged, and prepared!

#MRCGEM #StayConnected

**Heroes aren’t born. They Volunteer!**

TRAINING CORNER:  
SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

<u>AHA BLS CPR/AED Certification</u>	April 18, 2026
<u>Fire Training Academy Tour</u>	May 16, 2026
<u>Annual Volunteer Summit - Members Only</u>	June 6- June 7, 2026
<u>Family Preparedness</u>	July 18, 2026

Unless otherwise noted, programs are on the third Saturday of each month, from 9 AM to 12 noon, at GNR Public Health 2570 Riverside Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.

Members' guests and prospective members are welcome to join us on a space-available basis for most programs.

Attention Please...  
The 2026 training schedule is now available!

To add events to your calendar or to find out more about upcoming member events, Click the link below:



[MRC GEM Schedule](#)

Building public trust means recognizing false narratives and responding with clear, accurate, easy-to-understand information.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS COLLABORATIVE

**A Quick Guide to Public Health Misinformation**

**Spring Preparedness**

Stay prepared year-round with free tools from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Click each link below for quick list of activities to keep you and your family ready.



April showers may bring May flowers, but they can also bring severe weather such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail, flooding, and even late-season winter storms with ice, snow, and strong winds. To stay safe, make a family communication plan, prepare emergency supplies for your home, car, and workplace, review your insurance coverage, and learn more at [Ready.gov/severe-weather](https://www.ready.gov/severe-weather)



Spring can bring heavy rain and rising waters, making flood safety an important part of seasonal preparedness. Protect your family by knowing your flood risk, making an emergency plan, and reviewing flood safety tips at [Ready.gov/floods](https://www.ready.gov/floods)

To find more resources and information shared during National Preparedness Month, please click the link below : <https://www.ready.gov>

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES Call 1-866-PUB-HLTH anytime, 24/7.

Heroes aren't born. They Volunteer!

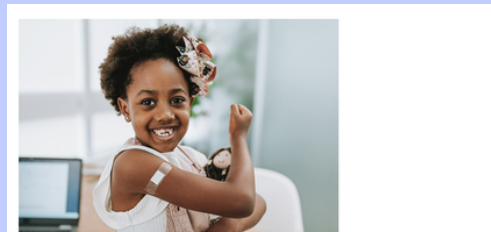
**From the desk of Dr. Terry Eng**

At our Feb training, retired pediatrician and dedicated MRC GEM volunteer Dr. Eng, noted that the American Academy of Pediatrics releases an updated immunization schedule each year for children and adolescents and encouraged providers to follow the AAP guidelines moving forward. Please click below:



AAP's historic victory in vaccine lawsuit a 'critical step' in restoring science to federal policy

For a list of organizations supporting AAP's schedule, please click below:



More than 200 organizations announce support for AAP vaccine schedule

Stronger Together:  
MRC & Partners in Preparedness  
**COMMUNITY & CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS**

THANK YOU



Your Kroger Plus Card can help support our programs at no cost to you. Go to [Community Rewards](#) to enroll your card in support of MRC GEM. After registering your Kroger Plus Card, search for MRC GEM (org. #JI419) and select us as your supported organization. Once you do, Kroger will donate a percentage of what you spend to MRC GEM.

Click each logo to learn more !



Support MRC GEM every time you shop. Donate spare change by automatically rounding up your orders to the nearest dollar at checkout. Go to [Walmart Spark Good](#) for more information and to enroll in the program.



*"Empower our community's emergency preparedness—your donation today helps build a safer, more resilient tomorrow."*

<https://mrcgem.com/donate>

**We are pleased to recognize our valued donors in these ways:**

**For a donation of \$ 1000 or more**, the donor's name and logo will be displayed as a Principal Sponsor at all meetings as well as on the donor web page. Your donation will provide a weekend of in-depth training for 4 or more volunteers.

**For a donation of \$ 500 – \$ 999**, the donor's name and logo will be displayed as Sustaining Sponsor at one monthly meeting and on our donor web page. Your donation will provide a weekend of in-depth training for 2 – 4 volunteers.

**Supporting (\$ 250 – \$ 499) and Preparedness (up to \$ 249) donors** will be recognized on our donor web page. Your donation will help us provide regular monthly training sessions for our volunteers.

**Stronger Together**

MRC GEM (East Metro Health District Medical Reserve Corps, Inc.) is a Georgia non-profit corporation with IRS 501(c)(3) approval. Donations are tax-deductible as provided by the Federal and State tax codes.

Your gift, no matter how large or small, helps us make our community a safer place for all of us. Since we are an independent nonprofit with no paid staff, we depend entirely on the generosity of donors like you. Every penny you donate goes directly to fulfilling our mission.

You can donate cash directly and conveniently through the PayPal giving fund using your credit card or PayPal account. The full donation amount comes to us; PayPal charges no fee for this service.

To verify us directly with the IRS, click the link below:

<https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>

Search for EIN 26-1280067.

Donate

If you prefer to mail a check, please make it out to "MRC GEM" and mail to:  
MRC GEM  
2700 Braselton Hwy, Ste 10-193  
Dacula, GA 30019-3262

Platinum Transparency 2026

Candid.

Donate



<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/63682>

If you have any questions about donating, please email us at [donations@mrcgem.com](mailto:donations@mrcgem.com)

**We appreciate your interest and support.**

An All  
**VOLUNTEER**  
Organization

Visit our website to find out more about becoming a MRC GEM volunteer.  
Become an MRC GEM HERO TODAY!

[mrcgem.com/join](http://mrcgem.com/join)



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