



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
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April 13, 2010

Dear MRC Volunteer,

The emergence of H1N1 flu last April created an unprecedented set of challenges for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the nation – from the initial uncertainty and widespread anxiety regarding the severity of the associated illnesses, to the prospect of widespread school closings and the shortages of vaccines.

We believe it is important to acknowledge and honor the work that you and others did in the last 10 months to address the pandemic. Therefore we awarded the Medical Reserve Corps Units of Massachusetts a “Public Health Hero” award, that was presented to an MRC representative at the H1N1 Summit - “Responding to H1N1 Influenza: Lessons Learned” - on March 22.

The Medical Reserve Corps was a particularly important partner to DPH by playing a critical role in assisting local health and school departments and other vaccine providers in the mass vaccination and education efforts. Hundreds of volunteer Medical Reserve Corps Unit members from the 45 active units in Massachusetts responded to the H1N1 emergency by providing thousands of hours of their time staffing H1N1 clinics across the state.

We are very grateful for all of the work done by the thousands of volunteers whose support of the Department of Public Health’s H1N1 response helped to both educate and vaccinate the public. Your hard work and dedication throughout the overall effort contributed immensely to our success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Auerbach".

John Auerbach  
Commissioner