

Department of State Health Services
Seeking Public Health Emergency Volunteers

The Department of State Health Services, Epidemiology Response Team (ERT) is responsible for public health preparedness & planning in East Texas. One member of the team, Kerri Shofner, lives and works in Shelby County. If a large scale event that might affect the health of the citizens of Shelby County were to occur, the ERT, in conjunction with local emergency planners, local medical providers, and local volunteers, has plans in place to activate Community Emergency Medication Clinics within our community. These clinics are large scale clinics designed to enable public health and the community volunteers to administer vaccinations or give medications to a large number of the population and could be activated as the result of a natural disaster, bioterrorism event, or a naturally occurring disease outbreak.

Public health is not adequately staffed to handle such public health emergencies alone. It would take approximately 400 volunteers from the community to assist with setting up and operating these clinics. The volunteers play a vital role in protecting the health and security of the community. We need to identify these volunteers and to enter their names and contact information into the ERT database so that they can be quickly notified, if the need were to arise. If you are interested in being a public health emergency volunteer, please complete the enclosed application and mail or fax it to the number found at the bottom of the application. If you would like more information on public health preparedness for Shelby County, contact Kerri Shofner at 936 591-0525 ext 243.