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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 03.28.24

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MARION COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CLOSED FOR TRAINING APRIL 4, 2024

Marion County Public Health Department will be closed on **Thursday, April 4** to host a Service Area Wide Emergency Preparedness Exercise and Training. The Service area includes the following counties: Appanoose, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Lucas Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Ringgold, Union, and Wayne. All hospitals, Public Health Departments, EMS agencies, and Emergency Managers in the service area have been invited to attend.

This functional Operational Community Wide exercise will test the Service Area 1-C (SA1C) Chemical Preparedness and Response plans in discipline specific tasks. Public Information Officers for each of the participating entities will train together to test communication plans as they relate to chemical response to the emergency scenario. Participants will learn and practice interoperative communication with 71st Civil Support Mobile Communication Unit. The 71st mobile lab unit will be on site and will demonstrate its function during an emergency. A mock Emergency Operations Center will be stood up, and participants will see how an EOC functions.

The National Guard's 71st Civil Support Team will provide hands-on decontamination training using the latest technology to neutralize and restore communities following a chemical incident for public health, hospitals, EMS, and EMAs. This exercise has been designed to meet federal preparedness requirements, as well as CMS and Joint Commission requirements for hospitals.

All Marion County Public Health employees will participate in this training. The office will be closed, and the parking lot will be very busy with participant parking and the 71st Civil Support Team vehicles. The Public Health office will reopen for normal business hours on Friday, April 5.