



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

BOB TAFT, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Free health care services in Ashtabula County for Ohio residents

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio National Guard, together with the Ohio Department of Health and the Ashtabula County Health Department, will provide free health services in Ashtabula County during two weekends in August to Ohio residents, through a cooperative program called GuardCare.

This year, GuardCare, an Ohio National Guard program that provides free health services while contributing to the Ohio National Guard's medical training readiness, will be offered the weekends of Aug. 5-6 and Aug. 19-20 at the Ashtabula County Joint Vocational School, 1565 State Route 167, Jefferson, Ohio. GuardCare is hosted each year in a different medically underserved Ohio community. Services are free to all Ohio residents who attend, regardless of income.

"We are pleased to be able to bring medical services to the residents of Ashtabula County and Ohio," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, state adjutant general. "It is an excellent opportunity to serve the citizens of Ohio."

Free services will include: sports physicals, dental screenings, EKGs (heart function screening), childhood and adult immunizations, adult vision/glaucoma testing, cholesterol screenings, adult hearing examinations and blood sugar screenings.

Sgt. First Class Daniel Hall, of the Ohio National Guard's medical command, said attendees would be able to pick and choose from the health care services available.

"If someone wants just an immunization, they can get just that," Hall said. "If someone wants to visit all the medical stations, they can do that, too."

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Through GuardCare, Ohio National Guard medical personnel support and assist local health care providers; they do not replace them. The support meets an existing need and provides National Guard medical personnel with valuable and realistic training.

The Ohio National Guard initiated the GuardCare program in 1995 after Congress authorized the use of military personnel in medically underserved communities as part of the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: James A. Sims II, Ohio Adjutant General's Department, at (614) 336-7000 or visit www.ohionationalguard.com and go to public affairs, community relations.