



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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MAJOR GENERAL MARK E. BARTMAN, ADJUTANT GENERAL

Aug. 6, 2015
Log # 15-13

For Immediate Release

Free health care services this weekend in Williams County

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio National Guard, together with the Ohio Department of Health, Williams County Health Department and Montpelier Hospital will provide free health services this weekend through a cooperative program called GuardCare.

Free services will include physicals; infant, childhood and some adult immunizations; hearing, vision and dental screenings; HIV testing; mammograms (Sunday only); electrocardiograms; and Pap tests on a first-come, first-served basis. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or provide written consent. Some lab work requires 12-hour fasting.

Services will be offered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8 and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9 in the Gillette Building at the Williams County Fairgrounds, 619 E. Main St., Montpelier, Ohio 43543.

GuardCare is hosted each year in a different medically-underserved Ohio community and services are free to all Ohio residents who attend, regardless of income. The event also enhances the medical skills of Ohio National Guard medical personnel, many of whom work as health care professionals in their civilian occupations as well.

"The Ohio National Guard has first-rate medical service professionals who look forward to lending a helping hand to the community," said Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman, Ohio adjutant general. "The men and women who fill our medical units are among the best and brightest Ohio has to offer and most of them provide medical services daily in their civilian medical careers. I am proud to see them serving alongside Ohio Department of Health medical professionals to provide free medical services for the residents of Williams County and Ohio."

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 Defense Department's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program.

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