

INFORMATION ON THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORP

What is the Medical Reserve Corps?

The MRC is a volunteer group that brings health professionals and others together to support local public health, emergency and medical services. As the events of September 11 unfolded, many Americans reacted by offering help. To be ready to provide the rapid response needed in a disaster, volunteers need to be trained and organized. A key function of the MRC will be to provide members with that specialized training and preparation.

Launched officially in July 2002 as a national community-based movement, the Medical Reserve Corps is a program under the Department of Health and Human Services in the U.S. Surgeon General's Office.

The Mission of the MRC

The mission of the MRC is to establish teams of local volunteer medical and public health professionals who can contribute their skills and expertise throughout the year as well as during times of community need.

The MRC will supplement existing local emergency plans and resources, as well as create a framework to match volunteer's skills with their community's needs.

What Will I Be Doing?

You are needed for both emergency and non-emergency purposes. During a public health emergency, you may be asked to help staff a vaccination clinic or pharmaceutical distribution site. During times of non-emergency, volunteers will receive free preparedness education and training and have the chance to serve as public health ambassadors. Some activities might include assisting with flu clinics, providing educational sessions on special topics, and promoting immunization campaigns matched to your skills.

Who Can Volunteer?

We are looking for:

Licensed medical professionals and others with medical experience: Doctors, nurses, pharmacists, EMTs, veterinarians, dentists, PTs, nursing assistants, phlebotomists, lab techs, and others.

Mental health professionals: Counselors, social workers, therapists, psychiatrists, clergy, and others.

People with other special skills: Computer specialists, translators, health educators, epidemiologists, biologists, chemists, and others

Volunteers to provide basic administrative support services.

Volunteers can be:

- Working in their profession
- Inactive in their profession
- Retirees