

# The Medical Reserve Corps: A Complete Source for Strategic National Stockpile Volunteers



## What is the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)?

- The MRC is a community-based, civilian, volunteer program that helps build the public health infrastructure of communities
- Each unit is organized and trained to address various challenges from disaster response to public health education
- MRC volunteers supplement existing local emergency and public health resources
- Volunteers include physicians, nurses, veterinarians, as well as lawyers, clergy, and other interested community members

## How the MRC can supplement Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) plans

### If SNS assets are deployed...

- Thousands of volunteers will be needed to deploy assets and save lives
- The less time you have to dispense medication, the more volunteers you will need
- Essential personnel will need early and rapid prophylaxis

### The MRC provides...

- A large cadre of locally **TRAINED** and **CREDENTIALLED** volunteers
- An in-place and tested volunteer notification system
- A local program that results in an immediate response

### MRC volunteers can fill the following roles:

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ▪ POD site set up            | ▪ Pharmacist               |
| ▪ Dispensing Site Supervisor | ▪ Pharmacy Technician      |
| ▪ Public Information Officer | ▪ Greeter/Triage           |
| ▪ Security                   | ▪ Medical Screener         |
| ▪ Administration             | ▪ Dispensing personnel     |
| ▪ Data entry                 | ▪ Mental Health Specialist |
| ▪ Logistics                  | ▪ Interpreter/Translator   |
| ▪ Communications             | ▪ And many more!           |



## MRC and SNS partnerships in action

- Silver City, NC: The Chatham Family Resource Center MRC helped create the area's SNS plan and define the roles of volunteers. This MRC unit will provide interpreters and needed medical staff during an SNS activation.
- Casper, WY: POD Safety will fall under the responsibility of Natrona County MRC volunteers. These volunteers will ensure the establishment and staff a medical station at each POD.
- Boise, ID: Central District Health Department MRC pharmacists developed an algorithm to be used at PODs to meet the special needs of children and elderly adults to facilitate a faster method of dispensing medication. As a result, the ability to dispense medication increased by 38 percent in 1 hour.
- Denton, TX: The Denton County MRC will be utilized during an SNS activation to set up PODs and as greeters.

## Find your local MRC



There are more than 700 MRC units and 145,000 volunteers

To find your local MRC unit:

- 1) Visit <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/FindMRC.asp>
- 2) Search by region or state (all registered MRCs within the state or region will be listed)
- 3) Click on the desired MRC unit to view unit information, including contact information and recent activities

## Partner with your local MRC

- Contact the MRC unit coordinator to learn what roles have already been identified for volunteers
- Work with the local unit to determine how you can partner with the local unit
  - If additional types of volunteers are needed, what training is needed/can be provided
  - Other types of resources your SNS plan may need
  - Incidents you may need the MRC to respond to

*“When time is your greatest enemy, a large cadre of trained volunteers can be your greatest ally”*

## Establish an MRC unit if one does not exist

**Step 1: Determine/assess your community's needs**

**Step 2: Partner with local key stakeholders to organize and establish an MRC unit that is right for your community**

**Step 3: Consult the MRC Technical Assistance Series – a guide to get you started**

**Step 4: Talk with other MRC units in your region; they have valuable information about what it takes to start an MRC**

**Step 5: Contact Regional and State MRC Coordinators**



★★ For More Information: [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov) | [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org) ★★

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