

# Medical Reserve Corps COVID-19 Mission Sets for Emergency Response



## Background

Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units have been adapting to and supporting an unprecedented number and type of responses. Many units are using NACCHO's mission set template to plan and document those response types.

## Mission Sets Definition

The term 'mission set' is a planning document that describes a scalable response and recovery capability for MRC units and volunteers that is organized, developed, trained, and exercised prior to an emergency or disaster for local, state, and/or regional deployment purposes. NACCHO developed the mission set template for MRC units to use as a planning tool using the Mission Ready Package model developed by the National Emergency Management Agency. The MRC mission set template is available to download [here](#).

Mission Sets include the following and more:

- Types of personnel
- Training requirements
- Equipment requirements
- Pre-planning considerations
- Additional resources such as job action sheets

Mission Sets can be used to:

- Document existing response missions
- Plan new response missions
- Train volunteers or specialized teams
- Share unit capabilities with partner

## Mission Ready Packages vs. Mission Sets

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is an organization that provides resources and support to emergency managers while overseeing the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the primary vehicle for state-to-state mutual aid. In 2014, the Mission Ready Package (MRP) model was introduced by NEMA as a standardized template that outlines pre-identified resources available for emergency responses through the EMAC system.

MRPs detail available resources and costs to expedite EMAC resource requests during emergency response operations when time is of the essence.

MRPs include information for a specific response request, including:

- The number and types of personnel
- Specific equipment included in the resource
- Cost estimates
- Other resource-specific information

"Mission Sets are designed to be a planning and training tool for MRC unit leaders to build response capabilities for their local or state emergency response requirements."

Mission Sets serve as:

- A foundation to build capabilities for common response missions
- A means for MRC unit leaders to demonstrate their unit capabilities
- Potential resources for state emergency managers to develop an MRP



# [FACT SHEET]

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## COVID-19 MRC Mission Sets

COVID-19 Operational Readiness Awards (ORAs) were awarded to support 32 MRC units in planning or supporting COVID-19 responses and to build unit response capabilities through the development of Mission Sets. Examples are included below and are also available on NACCHO's [MRC Deployment Readiness Resources Webpage](#).

- **San Bernardino County MRC #47** developed a [COVID-19 Code Triage Response Mission Set](#) to provide rapid triage response to decompress ER visits at hospitals surging with patient volumes.
- **Loudoun County MRC #165** developed a [COVID-19 Micro Mobile SARS-COV-2 Diagnostic Testing Mission Set](#). Teams are designed to go door-to-door, primarily in apartment complex's, with a focus on providing testing to medically underserved communities.
- **Lake County MRC #273** developed a [Non-Medical Isolation Room Support Mission Set](#) for schools to provide supervision for identified students who have been determined by school staff to have developed symptoms while at school and fit the criteria for suspected COVID-19 cases.
- **Wachusett Medical Reserve Corps #437** created an [Emergency Communication and Messaging Mission Set](#). This enables volunteers to serve as the conduit for information to internal and external stakeholders including staff, visitors and families, and the news media, etc.
- **Yates County MRC #1379** developed a [Point of Dispensing \(POD\) Support Mission Set](#). The mission set includes two operational choices: drive-thru or traditional with the addition of social distancing.
- **Johnson County MRC #2277** created a [COVID-19 Drive-Thru Vaccination POD Mission Set](#). This prepared the unit to set up a Closed/Open Points of Dispensing site to vaccinate critical populations with MRC members involved in both medical and non-medical job roles. This mission set template is flexible to be scaled up or down dependent on POD type and size.



## Common MRC Mission Sets

The [2019 Deployment Readiness Guide](#) includes mission sets developed by MRC unit leaders and represent some of the common response missions that MRC units have supported. The Mission Sets included are intended to serve as examples that can be adapted based on local or state mission requirements. Mission sets available in the Readiness Guide include:

- [Medical & Non-Medical Shelter Operations](#)
- [Alternate Care Sites](#)
- [Emergency Pharmacy Operations](#)
- [Community Reception Centers \(Radiation Response\)](#)
- [Medical Surge](#)
- [Resiliency \(Disaster Behavioral Health\)](#)
- [Animal Response](#)
- [Responder Rehab Support](#)
- [Family Assistance Center](#)
- [Medical Volunteer Coordination](#)

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