

NYC Medical Reserve Corps: Program Update

May 7, 2007

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Presentation Overview

- Role of the NYC Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) in NYC health emergency plans
- Status of the MRC
- Benefits of volunteering
- How health professionals can get more information and register to volunteer



Role of NYC's MRC

- Federal initiative being implemented at the local level
 - 652 MRC units nationwide; 19 in NY State
- The primary role of the NYC MRC is to support Points-of-Dispensing (PODs) for mass dispensing of vaccine or antibiotics
- Volunteers may also be called upon to assist the City with mass sheltering operations, as during a coastal storm, or to assist with medical surge capacity, as during a pandemic influenza outbreak



MRC Eligibility

- Any health professional with a valid state license or certification, or health professional student, is eligible to volunteer
 - Must live and/or work in NYC



NYC's POD Plan

- The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the NYC Office of Emergency Management have developed a comprehensive plan that details how PODs will function
- City employees, medical volunteers (MRC), and non-medical volunteers will work together to staff PODs
 - Approximately 40,000 POD staff are needed for a citywide public health emergency
- Hospitals required to have 3-day supply of antibiotics on hand for patients and staff



NYC's Coastal Storm Plan

- Up to 65 Evacuation Centers and 509 Hurricane Shelters could be opened during Category 4 Storm
- OEM lead agency
 - DHS, DOE, and HRA to provide bulk of non-medical staffing
 - DOHMH providing nursing and other Agency staff to assist
 - HHC lead agency for Special Medical Needs Shelters staffing (in discussion)
- MRC volunteers are back-up to City employees



Medical Surge Capacity

- NYC MRC and other NYS units to integrate with NYS DOH Volunteer Management System to build one statewide network of volunteers
 - All volunteers to select local affiliation for relationship management and training purposes
 - NYC retains ability to deploy volunteers locally
 - One database=accurate count of NYC volunteers
 - Vast resource for volunteers emergency credentialed, typed, and trained to same standard across state
- Hospitals and/or non-traditional settings



Status of MRC/NYC

- 6,037 volunteers registered as of 4/5/07
 - 55% physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurses
 - 22% other health professionals, including pharmacists, dentists, respiratory therapists, veterinarians, and podiatrists
 - 17% mental health professionals
 - 6% other, including students and non-medical volunteers



Liability Coverage for Volunteers

- Volunteers covered for malpractice under section 50-k of General Municipal Law
 - Considered extension of NYC DOHMH workforce when called up
 - No workers' compensation, but NY State is exploring options



MRC Activation

- Volunteer lists loaded from database into web-based notification system that can be accessed remotely
 - Asked to work as close as possible to own neighborhood
 - DOHMH will coordinate with hospitals for emergency deployment of hospital-based volunteers
 - Volunteers expected to check with employers if activated
 - Currently only about 50% of volunteers primarily affiliated with hospitals



Benefits of Volunteering for the MRC

- Volunteers are part of **pre-identified, pre-credentialed** and (ideally) **pre-trained** health care workforce, which facilitates their ability to respond to emergencies as part of integrated local emergency response plans
 - Potential for regional and/or federal deployments, as well
- Volunteers play a critical role in ensuring a rapid return to stability for their communities



Benefits of Volunteering for the MRC

- Online and live emergency preparedness trainings
 - Builds emergency preparedness capacity in the health care workforce, which benefits hospitals and health centers
 - Free continuing education credits may be earned
- Automatic access to the Health Alert Network (HAN) and an online NYC provider community



Trainings and Exercises

- Broad range of topics, both online and live
 - How to Run a POD
 - Response to BT Agents
 - Chemical Agents Primer
 - Intro to Radiological Emergencies
 - Clinical Mgmt of Blast Injuries
 - Psychological First Aid
 - Smallpox Vaccination and Adverse Events



Trainings and Exercises

- 2005 PODEX drill; 2006 5-borough flu vaccination POD operation
 - Volunteers work alongside City employees and other volunteer groups, as with real events
- Fall 2007: BDLS training and flu vaccination PODs



Future Directions

- Development of multidisciplinary Advisory Board
 - Include volunteers from hospitals
- Identify and train leaders from among MRC
 - Borough-based
 - Especially targeted towards PODs and shelters
- Increase membership in under-represented parts of the City



Getting Information on the MRC www.medicalreserve.org

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the NYC Health website. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.medicalreserve.org. The website header includes the NYC Health logo and navigation links for Residents, Business, Visitors, Government, and Office of the Mayor. The main content area is titled "Emergency Management" and "Medical Reserve Corps/ NYC". A sidebar on the left contains a search bar and a list of navigation links. The main content area features a "Current Information" section with a list of links, a "Mission" section with a paragraph of text, and a "Topic Contents" section with a list of links. The "Current Information" section includes links for "Medical Reserve Corps Brochure", "Medical Reserve Corps: Frequently Asked Questions", "Medical Reserve Corps: Core Competencies", "Liability Information for Volunteers", "Letter to Volunteers from the Commissioner of Health", "Health Care Professional Organization Partners", "Medical Reserve Corps/ NYC Updates NEW", "Family Plan Template", "Online Continuing Education Programs on Emergency Preparedness", "Trainings and Events NEW", and "NYC MRC Hurricane Katrina Deployment Volunteer Experiences 2005". The "Mission" section states: "The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DOHMH) Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) enhances New York City's emergency preparedness by ensuring that a trained cadre of health professionals is ready to respond to public health emergencies. The primary role of the MRC is to help distribute antibiotics or vaccine during an emergency requiring mass prophylaxis of a large number of New Yorkers. The MRC works in partnership with professional associations, universities, and". The "Topic Contents" section includes links for "Medical Reserve Corps Frequently Asked Questions", "Letter from the Commissioner", "Health Care Professional Organization Partners", "MRC Updates", "Hurricane Katrina Deployment Volunteer Experiences", "Trainings and Events", "Educational Resources of Interest", "Physician's Alerts", and "Health Alert Network (HAN)". The "Other Resources" section includes links for "CPR Training Facts", "Environmental Health Topics", and "New York City AWARE".

NYC Health
THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and MENTAL HYGIENE
1805 - 2005
Protecting Health for 200 Years.
Emergency Management
Home < Health Topics A-Z < Emergency Management
Medical Reserve Corps/ NYC
TOPIC CONTENTS
OTHER RESOURCES

Current Information

- [Medical Reserve Corps Brochure](#)
- [Medical Reserve Corps: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Medical Reserve Corps: Core Competencies](#)
- [Liability Information for Volunteers](#)
- [Letter to Volunteers from the Commissioner of Health](#)
- [Health Care Professional Organization Partners](#)
- [Medical Reserve Corps/ NYC Updates](#) **NEW**
- [Family Plan Template](#)
- [Online Continuing Education Programs on Emergency Preparedness](#)
- [Trainings and Events](#) **NEW**
- [NYC MRC Hurricane Katrina Deployment Volunteer Experiences 2005](#)

Mission

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Volunteer Registration

- Registration via the Internet
 - MRC website: www.medicalreserve.org
 - NYC MED portal: www.nyc.gov/health/nycmed
- Registration via the DOHMH Provider Access Line for those without internet access
 - 1-866-NYC-DOH1



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Thank you!

