



# Cook County Medical Reserve Corps

### Why volunteer?

Public health emergencies can happen with little or no warning and often overwhelm local emergency response systems. The results can leave suburban Cook County residents cut off from critical resources for days. The MRC provides volunteers with the skills needed to strengthen their communities for emergencies and disasters.

### Who can volunteer?

The MRC needs medical and non-medical volunteers, including:

- Practicing and retired medical and health professionals
- Nurses, physicians, pharmacists and medical assistants
- Mental health professionals
- Dentists
- Public health professionals
- Interpreters, social workers
- Clergy
- Behavioral Health Specialists
- Veterinarians
- Veterans
- Other volunteers with skills to contribute in a health care setting

### Join the Cook County MRC

To register, visit us online at <http://cookcountypublichealth.org/how-to-get-involved/volunteer>

### For more information

Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator  
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*A community-based program comprised of medical and non-medical volunteers to help build the public health infrastructure in our communities*



Visit [www.cookcountypublichealth.org](http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org).



**Cook County**



Training



Exercises



Mass Pharmaceutical Dispensing



Mass Vaccinations

## What is the MRC?

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a group of locally organized medical and non-medical volunteers working together to strengthen the health and safety of Cook County. The goal of the MRC is to identify, train and prepare volunteers for activation before a public health emergency.

## Why are MRC volunteers needed?

The need for the MRC became apparent after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when thousands of medical and public health professionals, eager to volunteer in support of emergency relief activities, found that there was no organized approach to channel their efforts.

Local responders were overwhelmed and did not have a way to identify and manage the spontaneous volunteers, and many highly skilled people were turned away. As a result, the MRC was established to provide a way to recruit, train, and activate volunteers to respond to community health needs, including disasters and other public health emergencies.

## How do MRC volunteers help?

### ENHANCE

Enhance CCDPH's public health emergency preparedness through volunteering to meet surge personnel needs.

### SUPPORT

Support CCDPH by staffing point of dispensing (POD) sites that dispense life-saving medication to the public during public health emergencies.

### TRAIN

Train with CCDPH and local emergency response partners to prepare to respond to public health emergencies.

### PARTICIPATE

Participate in public health emergencies and exercises. Some examples include: Mass Dispensing and Mass Vaccination Clinics.

## MRC volunteers can:

- Self-select level of involvement and time commitment
- Choose level of training
- Be a part of preparedness exercises and training events
- Network with like-minded professionals

## MRC Trainings and Activities

- Point of Dispensing (POD) Training
- Personal & Family Preparedness Training
- Psychological First Aid Training
- CPR Training
- Incident Command System Trainings
- Bloodborne Pathogen Training
- Participation in public health exercises

*Medical Reserve Corps units are a local component of Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to making sure their families, homes and communities are safe from terrorism, crime and disasters. Citizen Corps, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Peace Corps are all part of the President's USA Freedom Corps, which promotes volunteerism and service throughout the U.S.*

