



NECT MRC
Northeast Connecticut Medical Reserve Corps

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2009

I would like to invite you to join the new organization for Northeast District Department of Health public health volunteers, the Northeast Connecticut Medical Reserve Corps.

The Northeast Connecticut Medical Reserve Corps (NECT MRC) is a component of the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH). It provides a means of organizing and pre-credentialing public health volunteers who would provide medical support and staffing during a Public Health Emergency.

The most likely roles for NECT MRC volunteers would be to provide staffing for Points of Dispensing (POD), to distribute medications during Public Health Emergencies, or to provide supplementary staffing to support our local hospitals in a disaster.

There is a need for volunteers to serve in both medical and non-medical roles. We will work with the skills you bring, and will provide extra training and guidance for the roles you choose to pursue.

Please review additional information describing the Northeast Connecticut MRC and consider attending an upcoming training session. Contact NDDH for dates and times.

Now more than ever your local public health system needs your help. Please indicate your interest in attending by responding to dmay@nddh.org, or by calling NDDH at 860-774-7350.

Additional training opportunities will be offered throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Derek N. May
NECT MRC Director
NDDH Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator



Northeast Connecticut Medical Reserve Corps—NECT MRC

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

What is a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)?

History has shown that during disasters or public health emergencies, medical personnel and concerned citizens often have come forth to offer their help. Unfortunately, if those spontaneous volunteers are unfamiliar with local and regional emergency response systems, the result can be confusion and wasted effort.

The Medical Reserve Corps provides the structure necessary to deploy a group of trained and credentialed volunteers to supplement public health and medical systems in response to disasters, and also serves as an avenue to support everyday public health initiatives.

The Medical Reserve Corps provides local health care professionals and others with the opportunity to strengthen communities by being pre-identified, trained, and prepared to respond to a disaster or emergency. The MRC is a specialized component of Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security. It is a nationwide, community-based organization, sponsored by the Office of the Surgeon General under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

What is the NECT MRC?

The Northeast Connecticut Medical Reserve Corps (NECT MRC) is your local branch of the national MRC and is housed within the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) in Brooklyn, CT. The NECT MRC works closely with other MRCs in Eastern Connecticut and together they form the Connecticut Region 4 MRC.

What do NECT MRC volunteers do?

MRC volunteers can help with both disaster and non-disaster needs of the community. During a disaster or public health emergency, MRC volunteers might help with the distribution of medications, or to provide extra medical staffing if local health systems are overwhelmed. When there is no disaster or emergency, volunteers can assist with public health initiatives and ongoing community health outreach and education efforts.

Who is eligible to volunteer?

The NECT MRC is seeking people from the following groups:

- Active, inactive, or retired health care professionals in good standing
- Public health professionals
- Students of a health profession
- Veterinary professionals
- Committed individuals who are willing to be trained to fill key support positions

Applicants are required to be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license.

Does registration obligate me to volunteer in an emergency?

No. At the time of an emergency, you may be called and asked to volunteer. You can make a decision at that time about volunteering. You have the right to refuse to volunteer for any reason.

I'm already affiliated with another organization which may respond to an emergency. Why should I join the MRC as well?

The mission of the MRC is to provide support to local public health or medical systems that are overwhelmed. If your area is affected by a disaster, you may already be involved in the response. But if a disaster occurs in another area of the state they may call on the MRC to provide immediate or ongoing medical support. The MRC provides a way for volunteers to deploy within the established emergency response framework.

Do I have liability protection?

Connecticut state law provides volunteers with liability insurance and workers' compensation coverage during training for and participation in a Governor-declared disaster event.

How and when would the MRC be activated?

Using the information you provide to our database, if the MRC were activated you would be contacted by email or phone to check your availability.

What kind of training is required?

You already possess many of the skills needed to make a valuable contribution to the MRC. Our task is to provide you with supplemental information and training which will round out your skills. Both medical and non-medical volunteers will receive guidance on how to perform their particular functions.

MRC volunteers are required to attend an orientation session. Orientation typically is completed in one evening or weekend session, and includes an overview of the system in which MRC activities occur. Volunteers will receive all paperwork necessary for registration and a background check.

After orientation, the volunteer will be credentialed as an NECT MRC member, and will be offered ongoing training opportunities. Some of these trainings will be offered in a classroom setting, and others will be offered online or through other distance learning. Ongoing training opportunities might include topics such as: Points of Dispensing (PODs), Alternate Care Facilities (ACFs), local emergency response procedures, CPR/AED, trauma response techniques, mental health in disasters, use of specialized medical equipment, support skills training, communications, Incident Command, basic life support, Community Emergency Response Team training, basic first aid skills, and other trainings which will enhance your effectiveness as an MRC volunteer.

From time to time all MRC volunteers will be asked to participate in practice drills and training exercises to test their skills. These are typically non-stressful and fun opportunities to see how smoothly our organization operates on its own and with other agencies, and to identify opportunities for personal and group improvement.

More information about the Northeast Connecticut Medical Reserve Corps can be obtained by contacting Derek May at the Northeast District Department of Health at 860-774-7350, dmay@nddh.org, or by going to the NECT MRC website at: <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/detail.asp?id=1469&State=8>

Thank you for your interest in the Northeast Connecticut Medical Reserve Corps!