

Giving Your Best When Your Community Is in Greatest Need

In response to the outpouring of volunteer support in the days following September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush created the USA Freedom Corps. That national initiative is made up of several components, among them AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps, and Citizen Corps. Citizen Corps volunteers, in particular, work to ensure their families, homes, and communities are prepared in the event of terrorism, crime, and disasters of all kinds. One specialized component of that effort is the **Medical Reserve Corps**.

- The Medical Reserve Corps allows experienced **health professionals** to volunteer their expertise in times of need.
- Medical Reserve Corps Units consist of **locally based professional medical and non-medical volunteers who can assist their communities during emergencies**, such as an influenza epidemic, a chemical spill, or an act of terrorism.
- Medical Reserve Corps volunteers may also provide **education and prevention** services during non-emergency times to improve the health and well being of their neighborhoods and communities.

Help us be smart about emergency preparedness and response.

Think about the difference you could make by lending your expertise.

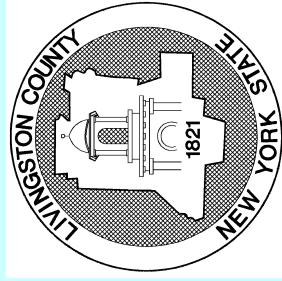
Become part of the solution.

Find out how to become part of our team:

Contact us at:

Livingston County
Medical Reserve Corps
2 Livingston County Campus
Mt. Morris, NY 14510

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**The first response...
is a local response.**



**Be ready to
lend your
community
a hand.**

**The Livingston County
Medical Reserve Corps**

*Volunteers serving their
communities in times of need*

**The Livingston County
Medical Reserve Corps**

Building from the Ground Up

Your willingness to volunteer your skills and knowledge is what the Livingston County Medical Reserve Corps is all about. It starts with individuals like you — individuals who care enough to pool their resources when large-scale emergencies or health needs hit close to home.

When you add your expertise to our local emergency planning effort, you become part of our local organizing effort. We are building from the ground up because our community's needs have their own unique character, and because those of us who live here have the greatest incentive to make the best use of our local resources.

Each of us can make a difference.

A National Community of Shared Vision and Support

We are not working alone. Hundreds of other communities are organizing similar efforts, each in its own way. We are part of a growing movement.

Headquartered in the Office of the Surgeon General, the Program Office of the Medical Reserve Corps, functions as a clearinghouse for community information and "best practices." It links us to technical expertise and educational resources. Its role is to help us achieve our local visions for community health and emergency preparedness and response.

An organized, well-trained MRC unit will be familiar with its community's response plan, will know what materials are available for use, will know its response partners, and will know where its skills can be put to best use and in a coordinated manner.

For more information, visit: www.medicalreservercorps.gov

Who can volunteer for the Medical Reserve Corps?



- **Practicing, retired, or otherwise employed medical professionals**, such as doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians, pharmacists, nurses' assistants, and others.
- **Community members without medical training** to assist with administrative and other essential support functions.

United States citizenship is not required to be part of the Medical Reserve Corps. Non-citizen, legal U.S. residents are also welcome to volunteer and contribute their time, knowledge, and skills to protecting and improving their communities.

What is my legal liability as a volunteer in the MRC?

All individuals operating outside their day-to-day employment are put in a different situation when they volunteer.

All volunteers in the MRC are considered agents of Livingston County. County liability insurance will cover in the event of a liability issue.

If you are a licensed professional, your own liability and malpractice insurance should be current.

There is always a risk of a liable situation.

Volunteers must acknowledge a risk for liability upon entering the Medical Reserve Corps. Most will find the risk of legal exposure to be far outweighed by the satisfaction they receive from their community contribution. This is always a personal decision.

What training will I need?

Emergency preparedness and response is a highly coordinated effort that allows us to maximize our capabilities at a time of extreme need. Perhaps the most important part of your training will be learning to work as part of a team.

You may already know how to perform some of the medical and health functions we may need. In most cases, your training as an MRC volunteer will focus primarily on learning our local emergency systems and health procedures, disaster response, CPR, Incident Command System, first aid, and other methods to enhance your effectiveness as a volunteer.

You will be specifically trained for your role as an MRC volunteer and will not be asked to do anything you have not been trained for. The Department of Health will provide training for the community health outreach and education component of the MRC. Prior experience or training is not required for every position.

What do Medical Reserve Corps volunteers do?

It varies, depending on the nature of the emergency and our ongoing need for community health outreach and education. Volunteers can assist the Livingston County Department of Health in programs such as health clinics and screenings, distributing educational materials, and supporting other existing programs.

We know that major emergencies can overwhelm the capabilities of our first responders, especially during the first 12 to 72 hours. Medical and other health volunteers can provide an important "surge" capacity during that critical period. They can also augment medical staff shortages at local medical and emergency facilities. In short, we often need medically trained individuals to fill in the gaps in our emergency response plans and to improve our response capabilities overall.