

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC)

Overview & Local Unit Information

Essex County, NY



**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

medical
reserve
corps



History



- 911 Attacks
- President Bush call for Americans to volunteer in their communities
- Office of the US Surgeon General announced formation July 2002
- National; community-based initiative
- Citizen Corps, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Peace Corps are part of the President's USA Freedom Corps

Administration



An overview of the MRC



MORE THAN

200,000 & 1,000

VOLUNTEERS

UNITS COMPRISE
THE MRC NETWORK



MRC is...



A national network
of *local units of volunteers*
engaging local communities to

- strengthen public health,
- reduce vulnerability,
- build resilience, and
- improve preparedness, response and recovery capabilities.

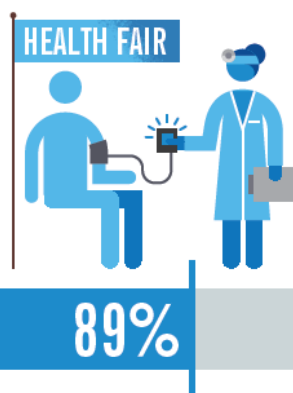


Top activities of units

Non-emergency activities

PUBLIC HEALTH

Community outreach



Seasonal flu vaccination



Health education



Emergency activities

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Personal preparedness and National Preparedness Month information campaigns



Mass vaccinations/
mass dispensing services



Emergency Operations
Center support



At a Glance: MRCs in the Community



In the most recent MRC Network Profile, below are the types of emergency responses MRC units participated in:

- Medical PODs (Non-COVID) – 59%
- Health Clinic / First Aid / Medical Staffing – 51%
- Behavioral / Mental Health Services – 17%
- Emergency Communications / Call Centers – 23%
- Volunteer Reception Centers – 9%
- Emergency Surveillance / Population Monitoring – 12%
- General Shelter Support – 20%

Source: 2022 MRC Network Profile

At a Glance: 2022 Responses (1/2)



- MRC units across the country supported ongoing vaccination efforts for COVID-19 and mpox, with the **Rhode Island Veterinary MRC (RI)** provided K9 therapy support at local mpox clinics. The **Public Health Reserve Corps of Seattle and King County MRC (WA)** conducted a large-scale post-exposure Tuberculosis evaluation of staff and students at a local high school.
- Amidst the heat, the **Burlington Volunteer Reserve Corps (MA)**, **Sacramento MRC (CA)**, **Marin County MRC (CA)**, **La Paz County MRC (AZ)**, **Mohave County MRC (AZ)** and **Wasco County MRC (OR)** supported cooling shelters. The **Vermont Department of Health-MRC of SW Vermont** took a preventative approach at a local festival with a misting tent, water, and sunscreen.
- The **Erie County MRC (NY)** provided medical and mental health support for residents evacuated from a senior independent living apartment.
- In the wake of Hurricane Fiona, the **MRC of Puerto Rico (PR)** provided mental health evaluations and psychological first aid support, as well as distributing hygiene kits and larvicide tablets. The **Lake County MRC (FL)** and **Marion County MRC (FL)** staffed citizen information lines during the evacuation as Hurricane Ian prepared to make landfall.

At a Glance: 2022 Responses (2/2)



- The Kentucky flood response was supported by the **Pike County MRC (KY)** and the **North Carolina Baptist med MRC (NC)**, while **PROJECT H.E.L.P. USA MRC (AL)** contributed a mobile clinic to the Mississippi flooding response. The **Minnesota Behavioral Health MRC (MN)** worked with FEMA teams to conduct a post-flood community needs assessment, and the **Mid Rivers MRC (MO)** supported a multi-agency resource center for residents affected by flooding.
- In the wake of active threat events, the **Lake County MRC (IL)** provided licensed therapists to support the victim assistance center and the **Clark County MRC (OH)** provided behavioral health support to residents of a local community. The **New Mexico Integrative Wellness MRC (NM)** provided K9 therapy in the aftermath of a campus shooting.
- MRC units also address responder health and safety, with the **North Dakota Public Health Emergency Volunteer MRC (ND)** CISM team providing debriefings to first responders and medical professionals experiencing traumatic events.

Community Benefits



- Personnel Surge when needed
- Direction & focus to well-meaning volunteers
- Scheduling capacity
- Reduction in spontaneous volunteers
- Support PH activities year round





ESSEX COUNTY MRC TODAY

Mission & Goal



MISSION

to engage *health care professionals* and *lay people*
to serve as trained volunteers
who supplement and assist Essex County Health Department
prepare for and respond to public health emergencies and identified needs.

GOAL ...

during times of public health emergencies
and promote healthy living throughout the year.

Volunteer Types – *Essex County*



In 2024 the Essex County MRC Unit includes 181 volunteers (with potential for multiple credentials/classifications per volunteer):

• CART	43
• Vet	1
• Vet tech	1
• Dentist	1
• EMS Professional	11
• LPN/LVN	3
• NP	5
• Other PH/Medical	2
• Pharmacist	3
• Physician	14
• PA	3
• Psychologist	1
• RN	44
• Non-PH/Non Medical	92



Volunteer Roles



Healthcare

- First Aid
- Medical Screener/Evaluator
- Licensed Mental Health Care
- Vaccinator

Non-healthcare

- Greeters/Flow Control
- Traffic Control
- Patient Registration
- Inventory Management
- Runners
- Translators
- Mobility/Functional Assistance

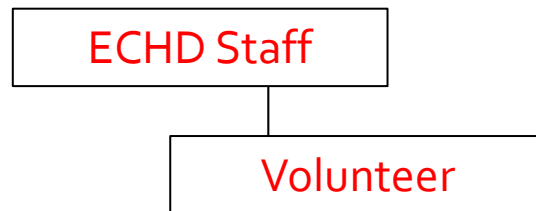


Activation of Volunteers

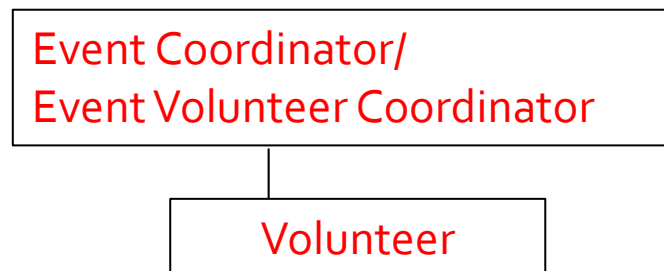


* Unit Coordinator: Kori McCauliffe

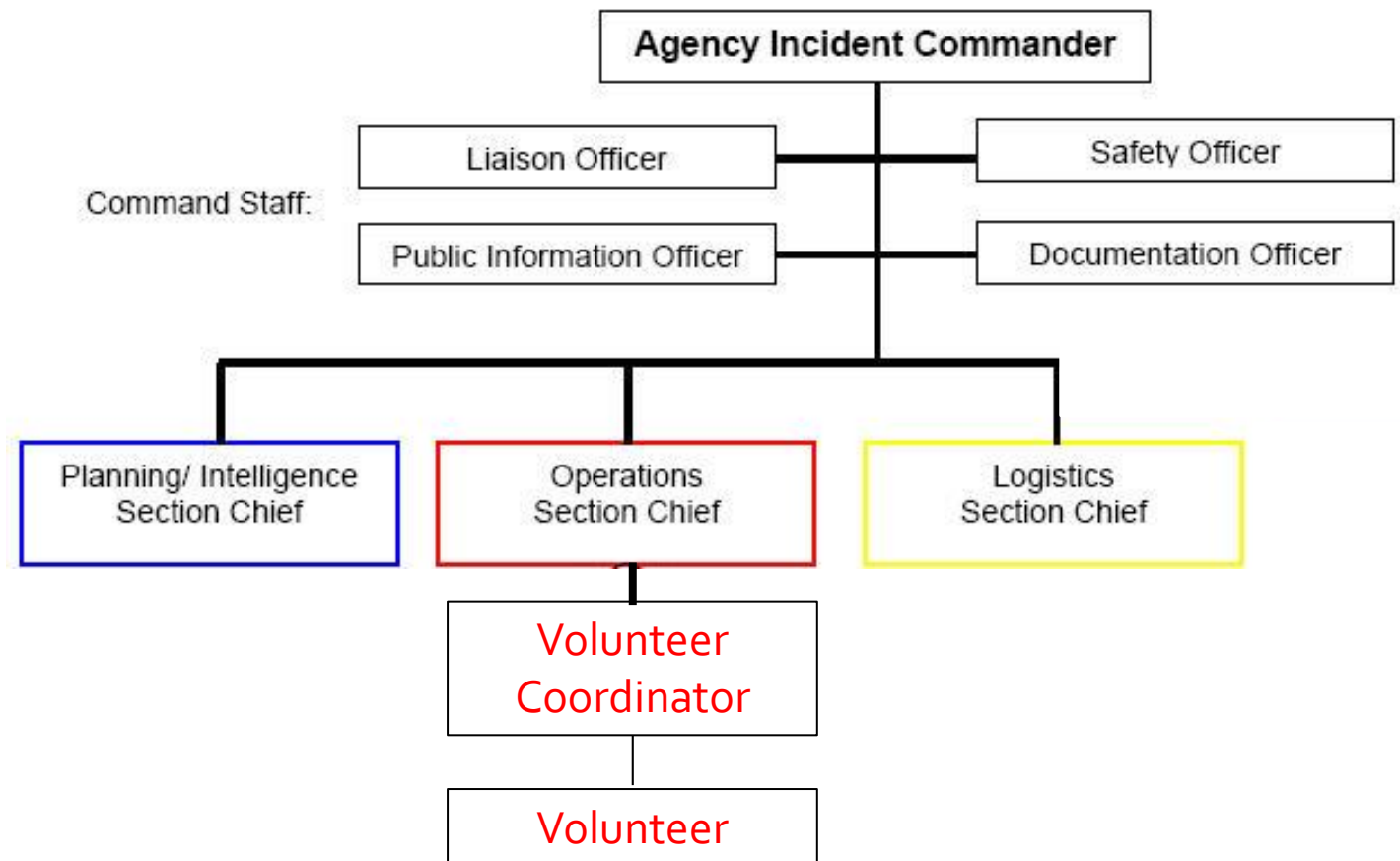
SMALL ACTIVATION (such as a clinic)
Public Health Clinic/ Outreach/Community Event



Or...



LARGE ACTIVATION (such as a POD)
Emergency Preparedness & Response



Community Partnerships



Community Needs

- CEPA- (County Emergency Preparedness Assessment)
 - Weather
 - Transportation
 - Hazardous Material
 - Pandemic/Bio Event
- CHA (Community Health Assessment)
 - Obesity Prevention/Mgt
 - Chronic Disease Prevention/Mgt

Partnerships

- United Way
- Red Cross
- Neighboring MRCs
- RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)
- Essex County Office of Emergency Services
- Community based organizations





Funding Sources

Sources

- National Association of City & County Health Officials (NACCHO) Grant
- New York State Department of Health Grant
- County

Legal Protection

ESSEX COUNTY

- Local Law #4 of the year 1980

NEW YORK

- Public Officers Law 17: Volunteers Participating in a State-Sponsored Program
- Public Officers Law 18: Volunteers Participating in Other Public Entity Programs
- Executive Law 29-b: Immunity from Liability During an Actual Emergency
- Public Health Law 14: Health Care Professional Acting at the Request of the State
- Public Health Law 300-a: Good Samaritan Law

NATIONAL

- Volunteer Protection Act of 1997: Protection for Volunteers of Government Agencies and NonProfit Organizations



Screening & Selection



APPLICATION

1. Regularly use an active e-mail address
2. Read, complete & sign MRC Application Packet
 - a. Registration Form
 - b. Confidentiality
 - c. Code of Conduct
 - d. Other
3. Submit completed packet for review



What Signing Up Means... And Doesn't Mean

Means you are willing & interested in volunteering for activities including registration, training & ongoing communication.

Doesn't mean you must volunteer for a given activity for which MRC members are requested to serve. In other words, you may always elect to decline to serve.



Local Volunteer Agreements

- Confidentiality
- Code of Conduct
- Photo Submission
- I hereby agree to quarterly participate in drills, notifications, and exercises
- View MRC 101

Volunteer Activation



- ServNY
 - Email
 - Phone

ON SITE VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Sign in & out
- Receive a role assignment/briefing/job action
- Work within the scope of license, certification, job duties as assigned
- Report activities following activation to Coordinator
- Complete forms/reports as requested

Terminating Service



Volunteers may be released if they:

- Don't maintain minimal requirements
- Don't complete activities needed to maintain active status
- Violate Confidentiality/HIPPA Compliance
- Have otherwise been determined to be unsuitable for service thru MRC as determined by the Public Health Director or designee

What's Next?



Essex County

- Local Agreements
- Application
- Create ServNY account
- Stay Connected

MRC Program Communications



- Visit the [MRC website](https://aspr.hhs.gov/MRC) at <https://aspr.hhs.gov/MRC>
- Join the [MRC Program Office's One-way or Two-way Listservs](https://aspr.hhs.gov/MRC/Pages/MRC-Listservs.aspx): <https://aspr.hhs.gov/MRC/Pages/MRC-Listservs.aspx>
- Join [MRC-TRAIN](https://www.train.org/mrc): <https://www.train.org/mrc>
- Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/medicalreservecorps):
<https://www.facebook.com/medicalreservecorps>
- Follow us on [Twitter: @MRC_ASPR](https://www.twitter.com/MRC_ASPR) or
visit https://www.twitter.com/MRC_ASPR

Questions?

THANKS!



Kori McCauliffe

Coordinator, Emergency Preparedness & Response | Medical Reserve Corps.

Essex County Health Department

kori.mccauliffe@essexcountyny.gov

518-873-3523