

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC)

Overview & Local Unit Information

Essex County, NY



**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

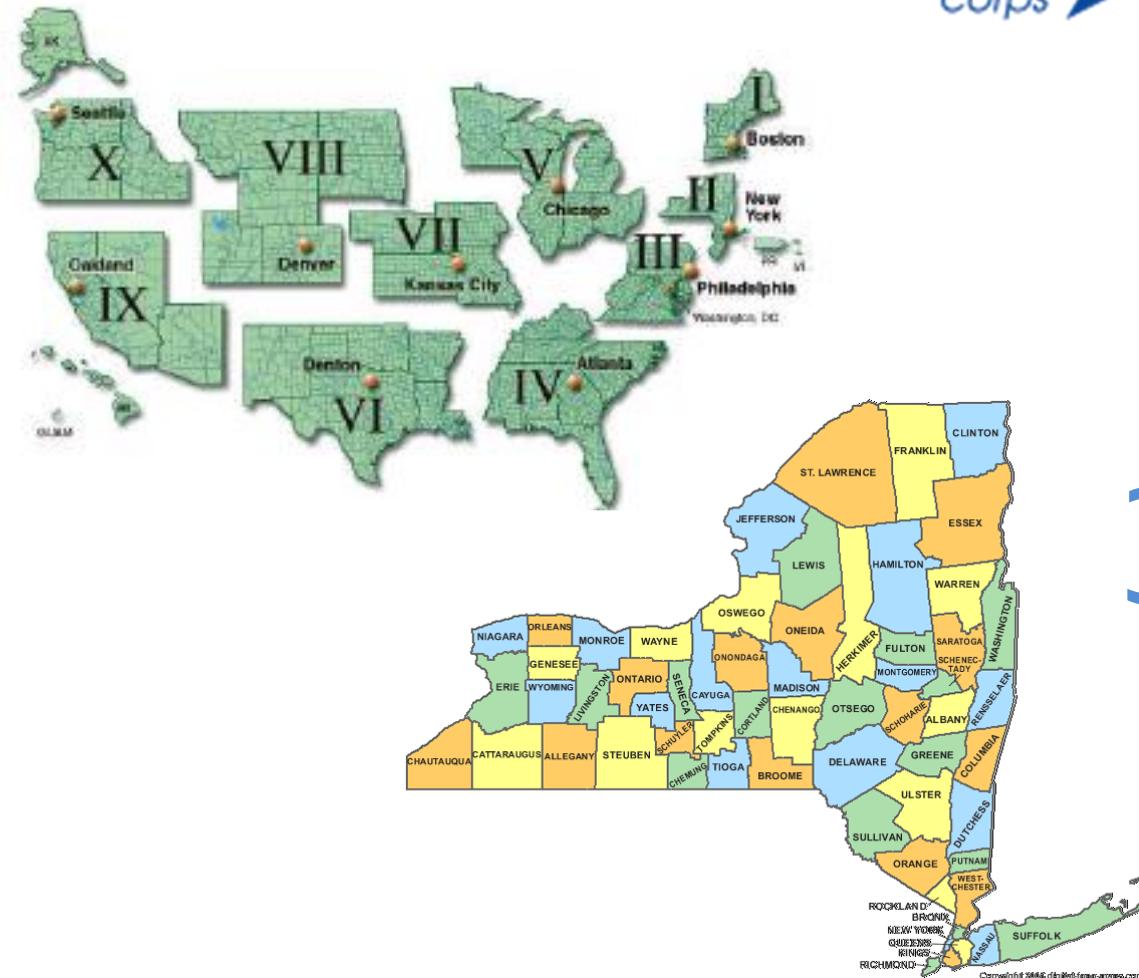


History



- 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



32



An overview of the MRC



MORE THAN

200,000 & **1,000**

VOLUNTEERS

UNITS COMPRIZE
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

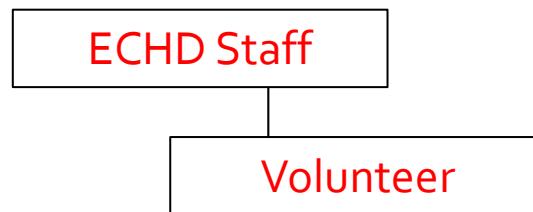


Activation of Volunteers

* Unit Coordinator: Kori McCauliffe

SMALL ACTIVATION (such as a clinic)

Public Health Clinic/ Outreach/Community Event

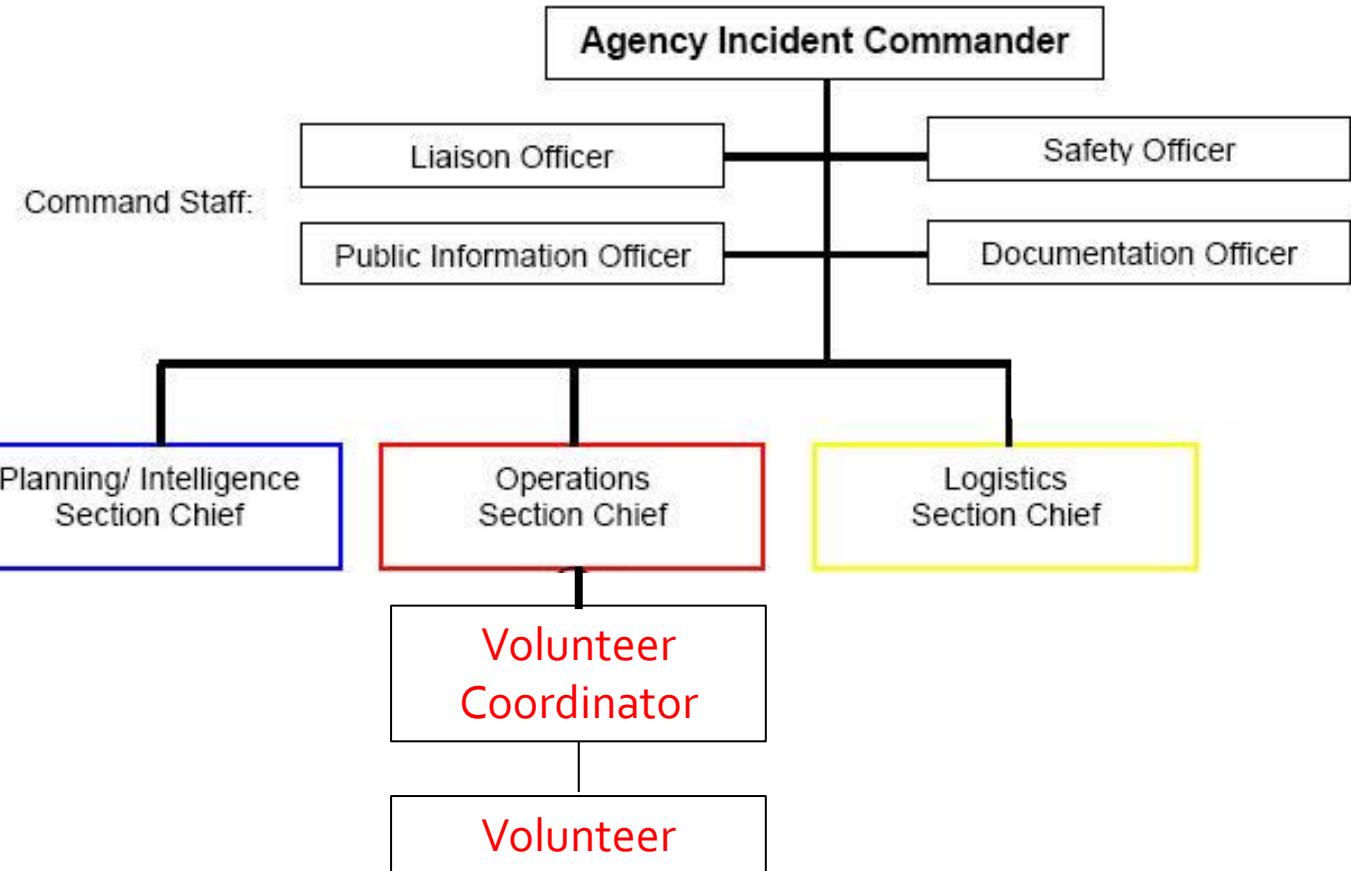


Or...



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 RESPONSIBILITES

- 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 [@MRC_ASPR](https://www.twitter.com/MRC_ASPR) or
visit https://www.twitter.com/MRC_ASPR

Questions?

THANKS!



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