The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of local volunteers with a mission to strengthen public health; reduce vulnerabilities; improve emergency preparedness, response and recovery capabilities; and build community resilience. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals, and other community members interested in improving the health and safety of their local jurisdictions.

### MRC: By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MRC units</td>
<td>982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>192,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New MRC units registered</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRC units de-registered</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRC units activated or placed on stand-by</td>
<td>More than 50 MRC units were activated or placed on stand-by to support response efforts to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities related to heat and sun safety awareness</td>
<td>15 units nationwide participated in nearly 40 activities related to heat and sun safety awareness (e.g., distribution of sunscreen, extreme heat safety information)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back-to-school events</td>
<td>MRC units supported more than 60 back-to-school events providing physicals, immunizations, first aid, and health education outreach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Night Out events</td>
<td>More than 25 MRC units across the U.S. – from Oregon to South Carolina – supported large community gatherings to view the total solar eclipse on August 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers in National Night Out</td>
<td>Approx. 90 volunteers from MRC units nationwide participated in National Night Out events on August 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence Day community events</td>
<td>MRC units across the country supported 15 Independence Day community events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“You are the Help Until Help Arrives” trainings</td>
<td>MRC units conducted 21 “You are the Help Until Help Arrives” trainings for both volunteers and community members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community walks, runs, and bike races</td>
<td>MRC units supported approx. 25 community walks, runs, and bike races by providing first aid, traffic control, educational outreach, and/or logistical support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This quarter, **369** MRC units reported a total of **2,343** activities

- **78** emergency-related
- **2,265** non-emergency

The number of activities notes the number of unique entries by MRC unit leaders for the quarter. MRC unit leaders also select impact areas for each activity, which may include multiple categories. Thus, the numbers in the bar chart to the right may not equal the total number of activities.

**Emergency and/or Response-Related Activities**

- More than 1,000 MRC volunteers in AL, FL, GA, LA, OK, PA, SC, TX, and Puerto Rico stepped forward to help meet their communities’ needs and those of neighboring states in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Efforts included, but were not limited to:
  - Behavioral health, medical, supportive care at shelters and clinics, including dialysis support
  - Veterinary transport and care
  - Support services to call centers and reception/evacuation centers
  - Emergency Operations Center (EOC) support
  - Commodity distribution support operations (e.g., water, food, mosquito repellant)
  - Community education and outreach (e.g., vector control, sanitation, hand hygiene)
  - Recovery support (e.g., disaster case mgmt.; first responder vaccinations; donations mgmt.)

*A comprehensive report dedicated to MRC Hurricane Response will be published and distributed in the coming months.*

- The **Sacramento MRC (CA)** supported cooling centers with seven hour shifts to support the City of Sacramento during a heat wave this summer.

- The **San Diego County MRC (CA)** responded to a local Hepatitis A outbreak with vaccinations and awareness campaigns for the affected area.

- Delaware MRC nurse volunteers were requested by the Bureau of Correctional Healthcare Services to support a tuberculosis screening clinic for all employees in response to an exposure at a local correction center. Nineteen nurse volunteers from the **New Castle, Kent, and Sussex County MRC units (DE)** served 184 hours. Volunteers administered and read 576 Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) tests, finding 15 positive reactors in employees whom they referred for chest x-rays.

- The **Manatee County MRC (FL)** volunteers supported Manatee County EMS to ensure general public safety during protests/demonstrations in downtown Bradenton, FL. Together, MRC and EMS personnel set up and staffed triage, transport, and rehab stations.

- Due to severe flooding in July 2017 in the Lake and McHenry counties of Illinois, two Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARCs) were established by the American Red Cross. MRC units from **McHenry County, Lake County, Village of Skokie, and City of Evanston (IL)** supported these MARCs and provided a total of 204 volunteer service hours.

- The **Minnesota Behavioral Health MRC (MN)** responded to an explosion at a local school in Minneapolis that resulted in the deaths of two staff members. MRC volunteers provided counseling to students and staff in the building at the time of the explosion as well as their families and others in need of support. The unit also partnered with Paws for Learning, an agency that deploys dogs to provide mental health assistance to those affected by a disaster.
Emergency and/or Response-Related Activities (continued)

- On July 21-22, 2017, 24 members of the Schuyler County MRC/CERT (MO) and eight members of the Northeast Missouri MRC (MO) participated in a search & rescue operation to locate an elderly gentleman who was lost for two days during a period of extreme heat. The gentleman was found on the second day of operations.

- Mississippi Mortuary Response Team MRC (MS) deployed one of the Mortuary Enhanced Remains Cooling (MERC) units to the Mississippi State Medical Examiner’s Office in response to the Marine plane crash in July 2017. Team members instructed the Medical Examiner’s staff on the use of the MERC unit and also assisted with the recovery of remains at the crash site.

- The Manalapan MRC-CERT team (NJ) was activated by the local police department to assist in the search of a missing adult female with medical challenges. Upon request, 34 team members volunteered to assist the police in searching the community. The woman was later located safely in another town.

- When a member of the Onondaga County, NY community was diagnosed with measles, a hotline was established to screen for at-risk individuals who may have been exposed. Central New York MRC (NY) volunteers served as hotline operators, triaging the public for further treatment and to reassure the worried.

- Licking County MRC (OH) volunteers assisted with staffing an American Red Cross emergency shelter after significant flooding left some community members unable to stay in their homes.

- Brazoria County MRC (TX) staffed a Crisis Cleanup Hotline as part of their Hurricane Harvey response. This team, which also managed shelter operations, established the hotline to assist recovery organizations with locating residents who needed assistance. Brazoria County MRC worked in partnership with Brazoria County Emergency Management to sponsor this hotline, and their team members answered phones and helped residents register for the type of assistance they needed.

- Fort Bend County MRC (TX) assisted the public health department with setting up and hosting a large-scale tuberculosis (TB) medical screening. The screening was held at a local high school where more than 650 students had been exposed to an active case of TB. MRC volunteers assisted with check-in, crowd management, staffing the hospitality area, and administering TB screening tests.

- In late September, more than 40 volunteers from the Salt Lake County MRC (UT) supported clinics offered by the Salt Lake County Health Department that vaccinated approximately 800 individuals in response to a Hepatitis A outbreak among the local homeless population.

- Weber-Morgan County MRC (UT) was activated to provide support for the Uintah wildfire that occurred in early September. The MRC unit staffed the County Sheriff’s Office responder trailer and provided monitoring, first aid, and other support to the firefighters. MRC volunteers also provided medical support at an evacuation center.

Non-Emergency / Steady State Activities

- More than 25 MRC units in ID, IL, KY, MO, NE, OR, SC, TN, VA, WY supported large community gatherings to view the total solar eclipse on August 21. MRC activities included staffing first aid and cooling stations, distributing protective eyewear, monitoring social media for potential issues, and conducting informational outreach — among other roles.

- The Autauga/Prattville MRC (AL) participated in a local healthcare coalition (HCC) exercise involving a 25-person accident. The exercise was intended to test medical surge, supplies, and capabilities of the HCC.

- Long Beach MRC (CA) assisted the local health department in conducting a Zika Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response in randomly selected census tracts in the City of Long Beach. The objective was to ascertain the community’s knowledge on Zika and mosquito abatement.
Non-Emergency / Steady State Activities (continued)

★ Porterville High School Jr. MRC (CA) received “Honorable Mention” from FEMA for the 2017 Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness award.

★ As part of their local school district’s annual Children’s Health Assessment and Measurement Program, San Luis Valley MRC (CO) volunteers assisted with health assessments for approximately 300 K-12 students in preparation for the new school year. These assessments included hearing tests, vision tests, height, weight, behavioral health needs, and athletic physicals.

★ DeKalb County Board of Health MRC (GA) supported a local community event titled “Safety Jam 2017, Stop the Violence.” Southeast Atlanta and DeKalb County communities and families participated in this event that focused on stopping violence in neighborhoods and emphasizing safety, primarily for children. The DeKalb County Board of Health MRC set up an information table and provided written materials and verbal advice about preparing and responding to emergency situations.

★ Three nurses from the North Central Idaho MRC (ID) administered 106 meningococcal vaccines at the University of Idaho New Student Orientation. This served the at-risk population of college students to decrease their risk of contracting meningitis.

★ During the 3-day Taste of Park Ridge festival, Maine Township Regional MRC (IL) volunteers provided 200 free blood pressure checks, trained 188 people on hands-only CPR, and demonstrated how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

★ Shawnee County MRC (KS) volunteers supported a Drug Take Back event, encouraging residents to safely dispose of unused and expired prescription drugs.

★ Bullitt County MRC (KY) assisted the state health department in training and providing naloxone kits to residents and first responders through a mobile pharmacy.

★ The Midcoast Maine MRC (ME) participated in a presentation by Maine-based healthcare nonprofit, Partners for World Health (PWH). During the presentation, PWH spoke about their organization’s work in public health missions around the world and how volunteers can get involved – either at home in Maine (e.g., collecting and sorting medical supplies) or by joining PWH’s international volunteer cadre. The MRC’s partnership with PWH allows both organizations to collaborate and join forces on cross-promoting programs, recruiting, and training volunteers.

★ Howard County MRC (MD) volunteers trained Howard County residents on opioid overdose response and naloxone administration at the Wellness Center of the Howard County General Hospital.

★ Boston MRC and Burlington Volunteer Reserve Corps (MA) participated in the Logan Airport/MassPort Logan Emergency Action Plan Active Shooter/Hostile Event Exercise. Volunteers acted as bystanders and/or passengers in an airport emergency situation. Representatives of law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services from responsible agencies and jurisdictions tested capabilities in real-time.

★ Wachusett MRC (MA) volunteers distributed personal preparedness information and kits at both the community’s annual fair and music festival.

★ Macomb County Health Department MRC (MI) supported the 2017 Selfridge Air National Guard Base Open House and Air Show. MRC volunteers staffed two first aid stations at the event, treating 217 patients.
Non-Emergency / Steady State Activities (continued)

★ Volunteers from the **Wayne County MRC (MI)** participated in a role-playing exercise regarding what it takes to build community resilience. Players began by taking a role in one of six sectors: households, community groups, businesses, first responders, local and state government, and federal government. As the game got underway, each sector decided which resources to invest in to help make their city more resilient. The players used their resources—and collaborated with each other—to solve challenges in neighborhoods around the city.

★ The **Macon County Community Volunteer Corps (MO)** participated in a full-scale evacuation exercise conducted by a local nursing home. The exercise provided Community Volunteer Corps members the opportunity to participate in and witness the evacuation process and better prepare the unit to support nursing homes in the case of an actual event.

★ The **Central Nebraska MRC Unit Coordinator (NE)** provided members of the Adams County, NE Sheriff’s Department with tourniquet training as part of the MRC unit’s “First Available Simple Treatment (FAST)” initiative, which includes “You are the Help Until Help Arrives” training.

★ **Dutchess County MRC (NY)** coordinated and hosted a "You Are the Help Until Help Arrives" active shooter training for early intervention/preschool providers.

★ **Orange County MRC (NY)** volunteers supported the 2017 New York Airshow at Stewart International Airport. Volunteers were responsible for treating minor injuries and illnesses, and stabilizing and preparing patients for transport offsite. Over the 2-day event, volunteers managed 93 patients with three of them requiring transport offsite for further care.

★ On September 23, **Rensselaer County DOH MRC (NY)** hosted a full-day symposium titled, “Bystanders to Upstanders,” which provided basic emergency hands-on training to civilians with little to no background, experience, or training.

★ Fifty-two **Rhode Island MRC (RI)** volunteers provided field hospital support at the Newport Jazz Festival.

★ The **Upstate Public Health Reserve Corps (SC)** participated in the Upstate Healthcare Coalition’s Mass Fatality Family Assistance Center (FAC) exercise, which was attached to an active shooter exercise. The exercise was the culmination of a multi-year effort to increase the region's capacity to develop a FAC plan, incorporate mass fatality disaster behavioral health training, and develop an effective volunteer component.

★ **Denton County MRC (TX)** volunteers conducted a flu vaccination clinic at two point of dispensing (POD) locations. More than 100 volunteers were activated for the 4-hour clinic and provided a total of 385 vaccines. During the clinic, the MRC also handed out public health preparedness education materials to community members.

★ **Texas State Guard Medical Brigade MRC (TX)** and a host of other volunteers provided medical support to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for Operation Lone Star from July 24-28, 2017. This annual event targets low-income residents in South Texas and exercises the state’s ability to set up and operate emergency clinics much like those that would be needed in a Public Health emergency. According to a DSHS report, physicians and other health care professionals performed 4,834 free medical exams (56.4% were children). They also offered 6,155 free immunizations to 2,857 individuals.

★ **Arlington County, Fairfax, and Loudoun MRC units (VA)** deployed medical volunteers to provide basic life support in National Park Service medical aid stations during the 2017 Independence Day Celebration on the National Mall. Physicians, a physician assistant, and registered nurses contributed a total of 99 hours.

★ During the multi-day **Town of Chincoteague Celebration**, **Eastern Shore MRC (VA)** volunteers provided first aid and a water misting tent for those overcome with heat-related illnesses. Volunteers also provided sunscreen and bug repellent, along with Zika educational materials.
Non-Emergency / Steady State Activities (continued)

★ **Northwest Vermont MRC (VT)** staffed a first aid station during Kids’ Night at a local museum.

★ **Snohomish County MRC (WA)** volunteers provided health screenings (e.g., glucose, cholesterol, BMI & blood pressure) to 73 adults during the Skagit County Project Homeless Connect.

★ **Thurston County MRC (WA)** volunteers participated in several days of back-to-school immunization clinics. These clinics provided no-cost vaccinations to students ages 3-18. Through these clinics, close to 300 students were seen and more than 370 vaccinations were provided. Not only did this event fill an immunization gap, it also provided MRC volunteers the opportunity to rapidly stand up a POD and administer vaccines in a non-traditional setting.
Strengthening the MRC Network and Enhancing Connectivity with Partners

During the quarter, the MRC Program fostered partnerships and hosted, participated, presented, and/or exhibited at a number of events to enhance connectivity, raise awareness, and strengthen the sustainability of the MRC Network. Examples include:

★ Program staff hosted monthly MRC Network Well Check Webinars on the following topics: Alternative MRC Units, MRC Involvement in Healthcare Coalitions, and MRC Hurricane Response Efforts. These webinars provided the MRC Network with the opportunity to learn best practices and available resources to strengthen their MRC units.

★ Program staff hosted the quarterly MRC New Leader Orientation. The orientation, which is intended for unit leaders who are new to their positions, provided program overview information, as well as resources, tools, and technical assistance available. The goal of the orientation is to help unit leaders build strong and sustainable MRC programs.

★ Program staff facilitated a webinar in August for MRC State Coordinators to discuss best practices and strategies to integrate volunteers within hospitals.

★ Program leadership attended the Meeting of Hazards and Disaster Center Directors, Partners, and Funders in Broomfield, CO, to discuss the utilization of volunteers in disaster research.

★ In July, program leadership and staff attended the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, to engage with local public health officials and national level partners.

★ Program staff supported HHS’s Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Office of Policy and Planning in hosting 10 student members of HOSA-Future Health Professionals (HOSA) as part of ASPR’s annual one-week Public Health Leadership Scholars program in Washington, DC.

★ MRC staff attended the annual FEMA Youth Preparedness Council Summit in Washington, DC, to represent the MRC in discussions on youth engagement in preparedness.

★ In August, MRC leadership attended the Oklahoma MRC Volunteer Workshop in Tulsa, OK, and taught a “You are the Help Until Help Arrives” train-the-trainer course to attendees.

★ MRC leadership and staff participated in the Bob Cohen MRC Mentorship Program Orientation and MRC Advisory Group Meeting on September 21-22 in Washington, DC. These events were hosted by NACCHO as part of its cooperative agreement with the MRC. The Bob Cohen MRC Mentorship Program is designed to support new MRC unit leaders, with less than two years of experience, by building mentoring relationships with experienced unit leaders who can help overcome potential challenges and share resources and successes among the MRC network.

★ MRC Program staff attended the 2017 Disaster Health Education Symposium in Bethesda, MD, and discussed MRC’s involvement in combating the opioid crisis in local communities.

★ MRC leadership presented at the HOSA Future Health Professionals State Advisor Meeting in September in Alexandria, VA.

★ In response to this fall’s hurricanes, MRC leadership and local units worked with the American Red Cross (ARC) and National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) partners to support affected communities, including MRC volunteers providing medical support to ARC shelters.

MRC Unit Coordinators at the Bob Cohen MRC Mentorship Program Orientation
Strengthening the MRC Network and Enhancing Connectivity with Partners

During the quarter, MRC Regional Liaisons fostered partnerships and attended various regional / state / local MRC and coalition meetings to engage state leaders, unit coordinators, volunteers, and network stakeholders & partners. Examples include:

- **Region 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)** – Attended International Association of Emergency Managers Regional Meeting
- **Region 1** – Facilitated volunteer participation in Operation Downpour, a federal emergency decontamination exercise held in Rhode Island
- **Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, VI)** – Attended meeting with the New York State Health Commissioner and New York City MRC volunteers
- **Region 2** – Participated in Regional Intra-agency Opioid Task Force Meetings
- **Region 3 (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV)** – Shared information about MRC participation in hurricane response efforts during regional State Preparedness Directors Call
- **Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)** – Attended HHS Region 4 ESF #8 Unified Planning Coalition Meeting in Wetumpka, AL
- **Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)** – Attended Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Summit
- **Region 5** – Participated in Quarterly Counter-Terrorism Conference
- **Region 5** – Attended Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration (ICOVA) Workshop intended to promote good volunteer engagement practices
- **Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)** – Provided opening remarks for the Oklahoma 2018 MRC Volunteer Summit
- **Region 6** – Provided support for MRC units responding to Hurricane Harvey and shared information about their participation throughout the response
- **Region 6** – Presented on the quarterly Regional Inter-agency Steering Committee Meeting (RISC) with FEMA and other State and Federal agencies
- **Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE)** – Participated in the Missouri Public Health Volunteer Advisory Committee
- **Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)** – Attended the regional FEMA Preparedness Roundtable, and led a discussion around the “You are the Help Until Help Arrives” active bystander initiative
- **Region 8** – Participated in an Opioid Workgroup Meeting, led by HHS Region 8 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), and Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) teams
- **Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, Guam, American Samoa, CNMI, FSMI, RMI, and Palau)** – Participated in the Southern California MRC Alliance Quarterly Meeting
- **Region 9** – Participated in Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Pacific Islands Preparedness and Emergency Response (PIPER) meeting to discuss Ebola planning and coordination
- **Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, and WA)** – Participated in regional solar eclipse planning meetings
- **Region 10** – Participated in Oregon State MRC monthly meetings

Website: https://mrc.hhs.gov | Phone: 202.692.4724 | E-mail: MRCcontact@hhs.gov
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/MedicalreserveCorps
Twitter: @MRC_ASPR