



Medical Reserve Corps

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

Medical Reserve Corps Quarterly Report: FY2018 Quarter 1 (October 1 – December 31, 2017)

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: This Quarter By the Numbers



937 MRC units
194,475 volunteers



0 new MRC units registered
45 MRC units de-registered

Note: The MRC Program Office is currently processing a backlog of voluntary MRC unit deregistrations and unit consolidations from the past year while the MRC website was offline.



13 MRC units supported wildfire response efforts in Northern and Southern California by assisting with resident evacuation, sheltering (including medical support), mask distribution, and veterinary care



MRC units participated in more than **200** activities related to emergency preparedness and public health exercises/drills



MRC volunteers administered flu vaccines and/or provided logistical support at more than **500** flu clinics & health fairs, including those held at community events, employers, health departments, and schools



MRC units participated in approx. **140** activities related to the opioid crisis (e.g., provided naloxone administration training, facilitated safe prescription drug disposal, supported community awareness campaigns)



42 MRC units conducted "You are the Help Until Help Arrives," "Stop the Bleed," and/or "Active Bystander" trainings for volunteers, partners, and community members



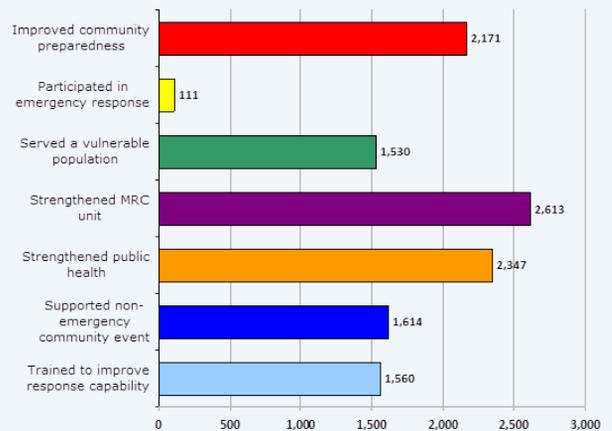
Junior MRC units participated in **18** activities this quarter (e.g., suicide awareness community outreach, blood drives, preparedness camp)

MRC: At Work in our Communities

This quarter, **543** MRC units reported a total of **3,916** activities

- **111** emergency-related
- **3,805** 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

- ★ The **Apache County MRC Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team (AZ)** offered debriefing support after a school shutdown due to a man with a gun at a local elementary school. The debriefing was given to teachers and 5th grade students.
- ★ **11 Northern California MRC units (CA)** provided medical and shelter support to communities affected by the Sonoma-area wildfires.
- ★ More than 240 volunteers from the **Ventura County and Santa Barbara County MRC units (CA)** provided medical and sheltering support, as well as assisted with the distribution of more than 900,000 protective masks during the December wildfires in Southern California.
- ★ **MRC at Yale New Haven Center of Excellence (CT)** assisted with receiving and welcoming individuals from Puerto Rico who were arriving as a result of Hurricane Maria. The group met direct flights from Puerto Rico two times a week for several weeks to assess needs, as well as distribute blankets, snacks, and informational materials.
- ★ **Louisville Metro MRC (KY)** volunteers were activated to support a vaccination clinic in response to an acute Hepatitis A outbreak. The unit is expected to continue supporting vaccination clinics for several months.
- ★ **Boston MRC (MA)** volunteers supported pop-up centers in the Greater Boston Area to assist Puerto Rico evacuees after the recent hurricanes. MRC volunteers assisted with translation, donation sorting, data entry, and call center support.
- ★ After two students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst were diagnosed with invasive meningococcal disease serogroup B, **South Hadley/Granby/Northampton MRC and UMass Amherst MRC (MA)** volunteers were activated to support a large-scale Meningitis B vaccination clinic. Volunteers administered vaccines and also assisted with greeting, registration, patient flow, and triage.
- ★ **Burt Township MRC (MI)** opened an emergency shelter after a power outage affected the entire community. Volunteers served 30 hours.
- ★ **Mississippi Behavioral Health MRC (MS)** was activated to provide crisis counseling to staff members at a facility where an individual had attempted suicide.



The California Veterinary MRC (top) and the UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team MRC (below) deployed to Sonoma County to provide veterinary care after the October wildfires

Emergency and/or Response-Related Activities *(continued)*

- ★ In response to the October 1st mass casualty incident at the Route 91 Harvest festival in Las Vegas, **MRC of Southern Nevada (NV)** volunteers provided psychological first aid and other support services at a Family Assistance Center, as well as staffed a call center set-up to provide referrals and support information to those affected.
- ★ **Clinton County MRC (NY)** assisted with providing Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR), Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap), and flu vaccinations to migrant workers at a local apple orchard due to a pertussis outbreak. The workers were educated on vaccinations and potential side effects, as well as hygiene interventions aimed at reducing the spread of disease.
- ★ The **Clark County MRC (OH)** Mental Health Suicide Response Team was called to respond to a suicide. Team members went to the scene of the incident to provide comfort and resources for the loved ones of the deceased.
- ★ **Philadelphia MRC (PA)** volunteers supported a Disaster Assistance Services Center set up to assist individuals displaced by the recent hurricanes. The purpose of the center was to provide information on available services, including health and medical needs, education, housing, case management, mental health services, and registration for state benefit programs.
- ★ **Midlands Public Health Reserve Corps (SC)** partnered with the National Disaster Medical System to aid patients being flown out of Hurricane Maria affected areas.
- ★ **Central Vermont MRC (VT)** helped set up a shelter for community members at a local school after a windstorm caused widespread power outages.
- ★ When a local tool plant experienced a chemical fire that lasted several days, **Mid-Ohio Valley MRC (WV)** provided water to fire fighters and supported a shelter set up to assist community members.
- ★ **Sawyer County MRC (WI)** activated their search and rescue team with HRD/Cadaver K9s to assist in a missing person search.

Non-Emergency / Steady State Activities

- ★ **Mobile MRC (AL)** assembled more than 80 “Go Kits” for the Mobile County Health Department’s teen motherhood program. The program identified a need for better emergency preparedness education and supplies for these families, which were included in the kits.
- ★ **Yavapai County MRC (AZ)** participated in a 2-day active shooter drill organized by Sedona public safety agencies intended to train duty officers and firefighters on an active shooter scenario.
- ★ **Pueblo MRC (CO)** volunteers supported the Colorado Mission of Mercy, a mass dental clinic in Pueblo, CO, held at the Colorado State Fair Grounds. Ten MRC members supported this event, which provided dental care to more than 1,000 community members.
- ★ **Fairfield Easton MRC (CT)** set-up and operated a 2-day flu vaccination clinic. A total of 870 vaccinations were administered during the 14-hour clinic.
- ★ **North Florida MRC (FL)** participated in a table-top exercise with their local healthcare coalition. The exercise examined the local health community’s ability to respond during a Category 3 hurricane.
- ★ On November 1, the **Manatee County MRC (FL)** participated in the county-wide Operation Inshore Slam Hazmat Exercise. During the exercise, the unit’s role was to provide first responder rehab (e.g., rehydration, treatment for smoke inhalation / heat stroke, monitoring vital signs).
- ★ **University of Georgia MRC (GA)** provided first aid and assistance to the lost child tent during the annual Athens-Clarke County Christmas Parade of Lights on December 7.
- ★ **Oahu MRC (HI)** supported oral health clinics led by the Hawaii Department of Health at three local Head Start pre-school programs. MRC volunteers assisted dental professionals with the screenings.
- ★ **MRC of North Idaho (ID)** provided stress management training to local EMS providers.
- ★ **Bureau & Putnam County MRC (IL)** provided medical support at a first aid station during The Hennepin Hundred, an ultramarathon that included more than 450 runners.



Manatee County MRC (FL) participated in a county-wide exercise

Non-Emergency / Steady State Activities *(continued)*

- ★ **LaSalle County MRC (IL)** was recognized by the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service with a 2017 Governor's Hometown Award for the unit's "Naloxone Program," which trains local law enforcement on the signs of opioid overdoses and the proper administration of naloxone.
- ★ The **Stickney Township MRC (IL) and Will County MRC (IL)** collected donations for military troops to send overseas during the holiday season and used the activity as a donations management exercise called "Operation Santa Drop." The units, along with Joliet West High School's HOSA student volunteers, collected more than 10,000 donated items. They inventoried, packed, picked, and staged a total of 98 boxes ready to be shipped overseas.
- ★ The **MRC of Monroe County (IN)** participated in a training held by the County Coroner on interviewing skills during a mass casualty event. The training taught MRC volunteers how to assist the coroner's office with gathering information from families that would be used for victim identification.
- ★ A member of the **Maquoketa High School HOSA MRC (IA)** learned that the area blood center needed more blood drives conducted in the community. With the help of the Unit Coordinator, the student MRC member set up a blood drive at a local hotel on December 22, 2017. The blood drive collected 17 units of blood.
- ★ In early December, **New Orleans MRC (LA)** participated in a full scale exercise with their local emergency managers. MRC members exercised their family reunification system with local EMS and hospitals during an active shooter exercise at the Audubon Zoo.
- ★ Members of the **Cumberland County MRC (ME)** supported a vaccination clinic that provided Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) and Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) vaccinations to 1,200 community college students.
- ★ As part of its MRC Challenge Award project, **Dakota County MRC (MN)** held an event to provide guidance and assist child care providers with creating emergency preparedness plans.
- ★ **Mercer County MRC (MN)** hosted a flu clinic, which vaccinated 460 residents and exercised the MRC and health department's point-of-dispensing (POD) plans.
- ★ On October 4, 42 **Northeast Missouri MRC (MO)** volunteers participated in a full-scale exercise in which they assisted with setting up and operating three point-of-dispensing (POD) sites. During the exercise, 1,400 citizens received flu vaccinations in a 6-hour period. MRC volunteers contributed a combined 256 hours of service to the community, with an economic value of \$7,011.20.
- ★ **Northwest MRC of St. Joseph (MO)** trained 56 high school educators in Youth Mental Health First Aid. The training was intended to assist teachers in identifying early signs that a youth may be experiencing a mental health condition.
- ★ On October 11, eight **Saline MRC (MO)** volunteers participated in a hazardous materials exercise simulating a release of ammonia at the ConAgra plant in Marshall, MO. In the exercise, the ConAgra hazmat team and the Marshall Fire Department rescued "victims" from the facility and stopped the ammonia leak. The Saline MRC exercised decontamination of the "victims" and responding hazmat team. The Saline MRC has six members who are trained to the 24-Hour Hazardous Materials Technician level. This was a county-wide exercise and included many agency partners.
- ★ The **South-Central MO MRC (MO)** and HOSA chapters in the local area assisted with a local flu vaccination clinic in mid-October. Three MRC volunteers administered flu vaccinations and eight HOSA volunteers assisted patients moving from one station to another.
- ★ **Mercer County MRC (NJ)**, in collaboration with the Princeton Health Department and the Mercer County Division of Public Health, participated in a point-of-dispensing (POD) exercise. MRC volunteers helped staff POD positions and acted as residents walking through the POD.
- ★ To help prevent the spread of the flu, 11 **Albany County MRC (NY)** volunteers helped assemble more than 1,000 Fight-the-Flu kits containing digital thermometers, masks, tissues, and educational information about the flu vaccine and caring for yourself or someone else with the flu.



LaSalle County MRC (IL) was recognized with a 2017 Governor's Hometown Award

Non-Emergency / Steady State Activities *(continued)*

- ★ **Central New York MRC (NY)** volunteers provided medical screenings and vaccinations in an exercise testing the health department's capability of providing mass prophylaxis during an event that requires social distancing. Flu shots were given to more than 550 first responders.
- ★ Twenty-seven **Dutchess County MRC (NY)** volunteers and 69 members of the general public attended training on the use of naloxone to overcome an opioid overdose. Each attendee was given a free kit to carry with them.
- ★ **Nassau County Department of Health MRC (NY)** participated in a mass casualty training and drill. Volunteers were trained to triage and move victims safely during a mass casualty incident.
- ★ **North Carolina Eastern Region MRC (NC)** volunteers set up and operated a medical care unit for participants of the Outer Banks Marathon.
- ★ **Wasco County MRC (OR)** volunteers greeted children from participating grade schools and chaperoned them on their mapped route to school. Teachers, parents, and guardians were encouraged to join the walk as a way to support a healthy lifestyle for the entire community.
- ★ **City of Bethlehem MRC (PA)**, along with CERT volunteers, attended a shelter operations training that covered the following topics: registration process, dormitory services, health and medical needs, and environmental health considerations.
- ★ **Rhode Island MRC (RI)** provided first aid support to the Scituate Art Festival, a local three-day event.
- ★ **Nashville MRC (TN)** participated in "Celebrate Nashville," a community event intended to showcase city services. MRC volunteers handed out more than 1,000 emergency preparedness go-kit bags and whistles.
- ★ **Shelby County MRC (TN)** volunteers participated in the 2017 Mass Casualty Hospital Surge Full-Scale Exercise. The exercise was intended to practice medical skills and response to a mass shooting.
- ★ Thirty **Denton County MRC (TX)** volunteers participated in an "Until Help Arrives—Stop the Bleed" training, which provided a hands-on learning opportunity that included tourniquet techniques.
- ★ **Rio Grande Valley MRC (TX)** volunteers helped install smoke detectors in more than 50 Weslaco, TX, homes as part of the Red Cross Home Fire Preparedness Campaign.
- ★ **Tarrant County MRC (TX)** volunteers assisted with the 2017 Arthritis Foundation Jingle Bell 5k Run/Walk in Fort Worth, Texas. Volunteers assisted with registration, packet pick-up, volunteer check-in, first-aid, and as route guides.
- ★ The **Southwest Utah MRC (UT)** assisted the Huntsman Senior Games Health Fair by providing screenings for vision, hearing, balance, blood pressure, and BMI, as well as flu shots to attendees. More than 11,000 athletes from around the U.S. over the age of 50 compete with 2,500 volunteers supporting this event that has taken place for the last 30 years.
- ★ **Wasatch County MRC (UT)** sponsored opioid training for 18 members of their local caregiver coalition. Speakers provided information on the scope of the opioid epidemic, what the hospital system is doing to curb the problem from a medical/physician standpoint, and what every person should know to help prevent opioid misuse and addiction.
- ★ **Virginia Beach MRC (VA)** led REVIVE! training (Virginia's Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education Lay Rescuer Training) for staff at the Virginia Beach Department of Public Health.
- ★ **Lewis County MRC (WA)** volunteers assisted public health staff with operating flu shot clinics in the six senior centers around Lewis County. A total of 116 flu shots were dispensed over a three-day period.
- ★ **Greenbrier Valley MRC (WV)** assisted with the Harm Reduction and Needle Exchange program at the Cabell County Health Department. Members used the opportunity as training for the start of a needle exchange program in the Greenbrier Valley.



Members of the Bethlehem MRC (PA) also supported a drive-through flu clinic in November, which vaccinated 619 community members

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: MRC Challenge Awards, Volunteer Engagement Promising Practices, and 2017 Year in Review. 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 October for MRC State Coordinators to discuss the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) process and Mission Ready Package utilization among local MRC units.
- ★ Program leadership attended the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Directors of Public Health Preparedness Annual Meeting from October 24-25 in Chicago, IL.
- ★ In November, MRC program staff presented at Notre Dame of Maryland University's School of Pharmacy regarding the MRC Program and volunteer opportunities for pharmacy students.
- ★ MRC program staff and regional liaisons participated in ASPR's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Division of Partner Readiness and Emergency Programs (PREP) annual meeting in Dallas, TX, on November 15. During the meeting, MRC staff connected with ASPR/OEM/PREP colleagues regarding best practices and lessons learned from recent hurricane response efforts, as well as opportunities for enhanced MRC engagement.
- ★ Program leadership attended the National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference in San Diego, CA, from November 28-30. The conference provided the opportunity to discuss MRC integration and collaboration with local healthcare coalitions.
- ★ On December 4, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) released "The 2017 Network Profile of the Medical Reserve Corps." The 2017 Network Profile captures how the MRC network has evolved over the years, while examining key opportunities and current challenges for units. It also highlights the MRC network's contribution to the nation's health and safety through local public health, emergency preparedness, and response efforts. The full report and its supplemental materials are available on [NACCHO's website](#).
- ★ On December 14, program leadership participated in the HOSA-Future Health Professionals Monthly Ideas Meeting in Washington, DC, to discuss topics of youth engagement in public health and emergency preparedness.



NACCHO released "The 2017 Network Profile of the Medical Reserve Corps" in early December

Strengthening the MRC Network and Enhancing Connectivity with Partners

During the quarter, MRC Regional Liaisons offered technical assistance, 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) – Presented at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Conference regarding the use of volunteers in fire rehab
- ★ Region 1 – Participated in the Massachusetts MRC Quarterly Meeting
- ★ Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, VI) – Participated in the HHS Region 2 Opioid Summit Meeting
- ★ Region 2 – Participated in the New Jersey MRC Quarterly Meeting
- ★ Region 2, Region 4, and Region 6 – Developed and provided key situational awareness reports to ASPR, FEMA, and program partners regarding ongoing hurricane response efforts in each impacted region
- ★ Region 3 (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV) – Attended the Region 3 Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) Meeting in Philadelphia, PA
- ★ Region 3 – Attended the Delaware Public Health Preparedness Symposium
- ★ Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) – Conducted MRC website training and orientation for new unit leaders within Region 4
- ★ Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI) – Attended the ASPR Regional Emergency Preparedness & Response Partnership monthly meetings in Chicago, IL
- ★ Region 5 – Participated in the Minnesota HOSA MRC Camp – a 3-day camp for HOSA students to learn about disaster preparedness and emergency response
- ★ Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX) – Met with the Texas Department of State Health Services Preparedness Branch Division Director to discuss MRC engagement and development in Texas, as well as lessons learned from Hurricane Harvey response
- ★ Region 6 – Continues to collaborate with the HHS ASPR Recovery Team and state partners to discuss ongoing needs in Southeast Texas in which MRC units may be able to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and potential future storms
- ★ Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE) – Connected with new Missouri MRC State Coordinator and provided latest information on status of state's MRC units and current contact information for unit leaders
- ★ Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) – Attended the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Annual Fall Conference where stakeholders spoke about operationalizing healthcare coalitions
- ★ Region 8 – Met with the regional American Red Cross Division Disaster Director to discuss potential for collaboration and promotion of Red Cross and MRC initiatives
- ★ Region 8 – Attended the Colorado Healthcare Coalition Annual Conference, which included a breakout session for Colorado MRC Leaders
- ★ Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, Guam, American Samoa, CNMI, FSMI, RMI, and Palau) – Participated in daily situational awareness communications and reporting to ASPR, FEMA, and Regional Partners regarding MRC response to Southern California wildfires
- ★ Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, and WA) – Participated in Oregon State MRC monthly meetings



Minnesota HOSA
MRC Camp