



Medical Reserve Corps Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Tristate Medical Reserve Corps?

The Tristate Medical Reserve Corps (TMRC) is a volunteer organization comprised of citizens from southwest Ohio, Northern Kentucky and southeast Indiana that organizes and trains medical and non-medical volunteers to assist during community emergencies. For more information about TMRC, please visit www.tmrctvolunteer.org

Who is eligible to volunteer for the TMRC?

Any citizen who is 18 years of age or older may join the TMRC. A wide range of medical professionals such as physicians, pharmacists, nurses, dentists, mental health providers and others are needed to provide direct medical services. A large number of non-medical volunteers are also needed to provide support services from clerical to computer support to transportation and communications.

What might I be asked to do?

Volunteers might be called to assist in distribution of medication or vaccines at mass distribution sites called Points of Dispensing (PODS). Volunteers may also be called to staff Alternate Care Centers (ACC) when all area hospitals have reached their maximum capacity or as support for addressing minor injuries and the worried well in a mass causality event. Volunteers may be asked to assist at Family Assistance Centers where family members wait for news of injured loved ones. Volunteers may even be called to assist in organizing additional volunteers who respond to help at the time of an emergency. Volunteers will not be asked to do things that they are not trained for or comfortable doing. There are tasks for anyone willing to help.

Where would I be volunteering?

Volunteers could be contacted to assist in their immediate community, their county, the Tristate area or even in another part of the state or the U.S. Volunteers have the right to determine where and when they are able to assist. For medical personnel employed by hospitals, your first commitment is to your hospital. The TMRC understands that some volunteers have commitments that will only allow them to serve in their immediate communities. Others have more flexibility and are willing to be deployed across the country. Volunteering for the TMRC does not commit a volunteer to respond to any specific emergency.

If I volunteer, what is the time commitment?

A very basic level of training is required for each TMRC volunteer. Additional training is offered but is completely voluntary. Day-long opportunities to practice emergency skills through exercises with public health, law enforcement and other emergency responders will be available to TMRC volunteers. Volunteers may steer their pre-emergency involvement based on their availability and interest. Of course, each emergency will have different demands of the TMRC volunteers. National emergencies may require a several week commitment. Local emergencies may simply require a commitment of a few hours or a few days.



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How would I be notified if the TMRC were to be activated?

Once you volunteer your name will be entered into a TMRC database. If an event requires the call-out of the TMRC volunteers, you will receive a notification informing you of the incident and requesting your assistance. If you are able to respond, you will be asked to go to a centralized staging location for detailed information and deployment instructions. You will never be sent into an unsafe area.

What if I am a member of a hospital staff or a volunteer for the Red Cross?

In the event of a major medical or public health emergency, hospitals will need their staff and it is understood that some volunteers may not be available for the TMRC response. Red Cross volunteers will likely be needed for all large scale emergencies and Red Cross volunteers should maintain their allegiance to the Red Cross. The TMRC is about organizing a medical response from the many professionals and non-professionals who are willing to help but never at the expense of our critical hospital or Red Cross partners.

What are the benefits of volunteering for the TMRC? Volunteers play a critical role in ensuring a rapid and full response to a public health emergency. By volunteering for the TMRC, you will be prepared to make sure your community is as prepared as possible for responding to a large scale event. Your actions may help save lives or prevent illness in your neighbors and loved ones. Volunteers gain personal satisfaction from knowing that they're helping their community be prepared. Many people want to help during a crisis but organizing and training volunteers after the crisis has occurred is difficult and ineffective. By volunteering prior to an emergency, you will be trained and provided credentials that allow you to be quickly and effectively deployed.

What training is required?

A very basic level of training is required for each TMRC volunteer. The first step is to take the online "Orientation to TMRC" training that can be found at the following link: www.tmrsvolunteer.org/training and a 2-to 3-hour independent learning program on the National Incident Management System are all that is needed to join. Many additional training opportunities are available for those who wish to have more in-depth knowledge and perhaps a higher level of responsibility should they be deployed. These trainings range in length from 2 hours to day long events. Some self-paced learning opportunities are even available online. Volunteers are encouraged to attend as much training as they would like, but the amount of time they invest beyond the basic level is up to each volunteer. For more information about training, please refer to the following link: www.tmrsvolunteer.org/training/

To become a registered volunteer with the Tristate Medical Reserve Corps visit www.tmrsvolunteer.org/contact