

Minnesota Responds

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

For prospective volunteers

What is it?

Minnesota Responds MRC is a partnership that integrates local, regional, and statewide volunteer resources to assist our public health and healthcare systems. It is part of a national initiative to coordinate and mobilize volunteers during an emergency. Minnesota Responds integrates local health volunteer programs and medical reserve corps units into a single program that can coordinate the need for volunteers across county, region, and state lines, if needed.

Why do you need me in a public health emergency?

When a public health emergency happens, the need for volunteers could be tremendous. Volunteers that might help set-up and staff mass dispensing sites, shelters for persons who cannot care for themselves, phone lines for health information, or provide basic care at a temporary clinic or shelter. Minnesota is looking for people with a variety of backgrounds who are active or retired, and are willing to volunteer their time during an emergency.

The number of volunteers needed will vary depending on the emergency and the needs of the community. There is also the chance that some volunteers will have conflicts at the time that will prevent them from volunteering. We would like to register a large number of volunteers so each community will have enough when the need arises.

What if I don't currently work in a health field?

Whether you are actively licensed in a health profession, a student, retired health professional, or anyone with basic skills that might be needed during a health emergency, you are encouraged to register. Because many health professionals will already be committed to a role during an emergency, many areas in the state are actively recruiting "non-health"

personnel who will assist health professionals when the need arises.

Should I be concerned about liability?

Minnesota State laws (Minn. Stat. §12.22) provides that individuals will not be held liable for acts or omissions committed while serving as emergency or disaster volunteers if:

- (1) They were acting within the scope of their volunteer responsibilities;
- (2) They were properly licensed, certified, or authorized by the appropriate authorities for the activity or practice by the State of Minnesota, and the activities or practice was undertaken within the scope of their volunteer responsibility;
- (3) The harm caused is not the result of willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct or a conscious flagrant indifference to the rights or safety of the person harmed.

Who will have access to the data?

Persons who will have access to this information are you, MDH and its federal, regional, and local partners involved in planning, investigating, or controlling a public health emergency and the vendor contracted to maintain this Site and its services. MDH will not provide this information to anyone else without your consent.

How do I register?

Everyone is encouraged to register at the secure website www.mnresponds.org. The registration will take about ten minutes and you are only asked information that is pertinent to you volunteering during a disaster.

If you have any questions there is a "contact us" e-mail link on the website that will forward your questions to your local administrators, or call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-5700.



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