



This PowerPoint is an orientation for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department's Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Program. Thank you for becoming a volunteer with Public Health.

Medical Reserve Corps

Mission Statement

The mission of the MRC is to engage volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response and community resiliency.

MRC Background Information

- **Medical Reserve Corps History**
 - Launched in 2002
 - Under the Office of the Surgeon General
 - 955 MRC Units across the United States
 - Tennessee has 12 MRC Units across the state

The medical reserve corps was founded by the federal government shortly after 9/11. Launched in 2002 as a way for medical, public health, and other volunteers to improve the health and safety of their communities, the MRC concept is now accepted across the nation, and MRC units have organized over 200,000 members. The MRC falls under the Office of the Surgeon General.

A background image showing a close-up of a hand holding a pill. The hand is in the foreground, and the pill is in the background, slightly out of focus. The lighting is warm, with orange and yellow tones. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box in the upper left corner of the image.

Role of Health Department MRC Volunteer Program

- The MRC supplements the existing emergency response systems in place during times of bioterrorism attacks, non-terror threats and natural disasters.
- The MRC consists of both medical and non-medical volunteers.

Role of Health Department MRC Volunteer Program

- Our MRC Unit focuses on Point of Dispensing Clinics or PODs. Public Health will open and operate PODs when it has been determined that there is an outbreak of disease or a biological release. Nurses at the PODs will vaccinate or dispense medications to the residents of Hamilton County.
- Medical volunteers will also provide surge support to area hospitals during a disaster. Pre-planning for emergency events is crucial for an organized and efficient response in an emergency.

Volunteers May Be Called To:

- **Provide Education on Emergency Family Preparedness**
- **Assist with Flu Clinics**
- **Help at Special Events**
- **Provide Support During Outbreaks**
- **Help at Community Distribution Sites**
- **Participate in Drills/Exercises**

Since you are a volunteer, it is not mandatory that you participate every time we ask you to. We love participation of our volunteers, but know that while one person may be interested in participating in a drill, another person would rather help with a flu clinic!

Reasons to Activate the MRC

- Flu Clinics



There are many job functions to fill during a flu clinic. Forms to be filled out and reviewed, screenings to be done, and people to direct to the right location. These are busy, hectic clinics and require a lot of staff to help keep it running smoothly!

Reasons to Activate the MRC

- Flood



During floods, many times emergency shelters are opened up for the families that are displaced. The American Red Cross opens and runs these shelters. The local health department helps in a variety of ways, and depending on the duration, need many people to help out.

Reasons to Activate the MRC

- Tornado



Shelters may be opened and in need of manpower, there may be door to door work to be done, etc. For every individual situation, it may vary on what is needed of our volunteers.

Reasons to Activate the MRC

- Terrorism Event



Protection From Legal Liability

Under the federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, people who volunteer for governmental entities cannot be held liable for any harm that they may cause while engaged in volunteer activity (except for a harm caused by operation of a motor vehicle or a harm caused by criminal conduct or gross or reckless misconduct).

Volunteer Liability Protection

- Applicable statutes are Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.) 8-42-101 and T.C.A. 63-6-218
- a. T.C.A. 8-42-101
- b. T.C.A. 63-6-218
- c. T.C.A. 63-6-708
- d. Senate Bill 2705 and House Bill 2526 have been codified as Public Chapter 560 in April, 2006. It provides the Governor of Tennessee, in a declared emergency, the authority to provide limited liability protection to health care providers and facilities who deliver health care services except in instances of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Activation of Volunteers

- Our MRC volunteers can be activated (called to respond) to any of the situations you have just seen, as well as in other instances.
- Volunteers would be contacted by a variety of means and if they were available would be directed to report to a specific duty site or to a Staging Area (Gathering place for volunteers awaiting assignment)

Activation of Volunteers

- It is very important that we have your current contact information – telephone, email, and mailing address because this is how we contact you regarding emergencies as well as trainings, exercise drills, etc.

MRC Training

- **MRC Orientation - Online**
- **POD Training – Online**
- **Personal Preparedness – Online**
- **Disaster Mental Health – Online and in person**

- **Participation in Exercises and Drills**

This is the MRC Orientation PowerPoint. All of the other trainings listed here (POD, Personal Preparedness, Disaster Mental Health) are located online on this same webpage:

<http://health.hamiltontn.org/AdminServices/EmergPlan/Volunteers.aspx>

MRC Orientation

- Now that you have completed your MRC Orientation, please email Sabrina Novak at SabrinaN@HamiltonTN.gov to notify that you have completed this training.

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Questions?

- Contact Sabrina Novak at (423) 209-8390 or email at: SabrinaN@HamiltonTN.gov

- Visit our webpage at:

<http://health.hamiltontn.org/adminservices/emergplan/volunteers.aspx>