



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Thomas A. Farley, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

nyc.gov/health

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Dear Colleague:

As part of its mission to safeguard the health of all New Yorkers, the NYC Health Department is focused on emergency preparedness. The NYC Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a key component of that effort. The MRC is a multidisciplinary group of volunteer health professionals who can be called to service during a public health emergency. I would like to invite you, as a health professional living or working in New York City, to help enhance the City's readiness by joining the MRC.

By being part of a pre-identified, pre-credentialed, and pre-trained group of volunteers, members can play a critical role in ensuring that our emergency response is prompt and successful, and that our communities return quickly to stability. MRC volunteers may distribute antibiotics or vaccine during an emergency requiring mass prophylaxis. In fact, MRC volunteers will play a key role in the City's effort to vaccinate school-age children against H1N1 influenza. The Health Department is recruiting them to staff weekend Points-of-Dispensing, or PODs, during November and December. You could also be called upon to help with mass sheltering operations during a coastal storm, or to augment staffing at hospitals and clinics.

MRC membership is a good-faith agreement. Registered volunteers agree to assist during an emergency once they have satisfied commitments to their hospitals, private practices and families. Members may be trained in NYC's emergency plans and protocols so that they can serve more effectively as volunteers. Both live and online trainings are available, and most offer continuing education credits. Volunteers also receive indemnification through General Municipal Law section 50-k if the Health Department activates the MRC.

I hope you will accept this invitation to join the MRC. The enclosed brochure describes the program and explains how to register. Information is also available at www.nyc.gov/medicalreservecorps. Thank you in advance for helping us to secure the wellbeing of all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Farley, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Encl.