

## Hancock County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) FAQ



### What is the Hancock County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)?

The Hancock County MRC is a team of dedicated volunteers from diverse backgrounds devoted to helping Hancock County communities in times of need. Volunteers respond to a variety of needs, including the H1N1 and COVID-19 Pandemics, Healthy Kids Day, staffing hydration and cooling tents at various fairs and festivals, providing basic first aid at events such as 5k races, and much more.

### Who runs the program?

The Hancock County MRC is administratively run through Hancock Public Health. The program coordinator is Hannah Plumley, Epidemiologist and Emergency Response Planner.

### Who can join the Hancock County MRC?

Eligibility requirements include:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be able to present proof of valid identification
- Be free of felony and serious misdemeanor convictions
- Be a resident or resident student of Hancock County (If you live in another county in Ohio, you should consider joining their MRC)

### Do I have to be a medical professional to volunteer?

No. We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds who are interested in helping their community. Members of the Hancock County MRC possess a wide range of skills. No experience is required.

### What is expected of me?

Members are encouraged to attend at least one (1) training session and volunteer in at least one (1) response per year to maintain skills and active status. Volunteers are required to maintain professional during trainings and responses and abide by all HIPAA laws and regulations.

### What type of training is involved?

Once you complete your registration, you will receive a list of recommended trainings to include, but are not limited to, MRC Orientation, bloodborne pathogens, and trainings on the incident command system (ICS). Most trainings will be offered as Just in Time (JIT) prior to the activity or event. Various trainings will also be offered throughout the year, including CPR Certification/Renewal, Stop the Bleed, and/or Mental Health First Aid.

## **What are the benefits of volunteering with the Hancock County MRC?**

- Various trainings provided at no cost
- Community service and camaraderie as part of a critically important specialized team
- Opportunities to serve the emergency response and public health needs of the community
- Building public health professional experience

## **What is the time commitment?**

There are no specific time commitment requirements. However, we highly encourage volunteers to participate in at least one response and one training per year. Response commitments are typically in 3-4 hour time blocks, and trainings are between 1-2 hours.

## **Will this interfere with my regular job?**

No. We participate in various responses including evenings and weekends, to allow for volunteers to participate at a time that will not interfere with their normal work schedule.

## **What about travel and transportation?**

All activities occur locally within Hancock County. This does require the ability to arrange for your own transportation to and from assignment locations.

## **What about liability?**

Registered members of the MRC have [liability protection](#) in the Ohio Revised Code 121.404 during declared emergencies, disasters, drills, exercises and trainings. The protection exempts a registered volunteer's personal information in the Ohio Responds Registry from public disclosure.

## **Does acceptance for membership in the Hancock County MRC legally obligate me to volunteer in an emergency?**

No. Your service with the Hancock County MRC is voluntary and you are not legally obligated to assist in an emergency or any other situation. If need arises, you may be alerted or called and asked to volunteer. The decision you make at that time is up to you. However, as a Hancock County MRC volunteer you should be as prepared as possible to respond. Certainly, work and family commitments are understood. However, as a volunteer we hope you plan ahead and be prepared to assist your community.

## **How will I be contacted for volunteer opportunities?**

The majority of communication will occur by email, to the email address you provide when you register in [Ohio Responds](#). Occasional phone communication may occur in the event of last minute schedule changes or cancellations. Be assured that your contact information and any information you provide in Ohio Responds is secure and will not be shared with any other entities.