



Be Prepared to Help Your Community

Join the Orange County Public Health Reserve Corps



Potential Volunteer Information Packet

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About the Medical Reserve Corps

- ◆ Created after September 11th in response to Americans' desire to volunteer for emergency response
- ◆ Component of the National Citizen Corps Program that enables medical and health professionals and other community members to volunteer in their community during a public health emergency
- ◆ There are over 400 Medical Reserve Corps Units nationwide, with 13 based in North Carolina





About the Public Health Reserve Corps

- ◆ A part of the Medical Reserve Corps Program
- ◆ Created in 2003 as one of the Orange County Health Department's volunteer programs
- ◆ Mission is to provide trained and credentialed medical and non-medical volunteers for increased response capacity during public health emergencies and for increased support of non-emergency public health programs offered by the Orange County Health Department and its partner agencies
- ◆ Close to 200 volunteers are registered in the program database



Volunteer Need

- ◆ The U.S. Surgeon General outlined priorities for the nation's health. Improving health literacy is a top priority, and in support of this, he encourages volunteers to work toward increasing disease prevention, eliminating health disparities, in addition to public health preparedness.
- ◆ Responsibilities of PHRC volunteers will depend on the nature of community needs. Volunteers can help during public health emergencies (flu pandemics, acts of terrorism, natural disasters, etc.) and assist with ongoing public initiatives (education, screenings, and outreach).
- ◆ Major emergencies can overwhelm capabilities of first responders, particularly during the first 12 to 72 hours. Volunteers can provide "surge" capacity during this critical period by augmenting staff shortages.
- ◆ PHRC volunteers also strengthen the overall health of residents by participating in general public health initiatives such as flu clinics and health education programs.



Volunteers Needed!

◆ Who can volunteer?

- ✓ Persons living or working in Orange County, North Carolina
- ✓ Practicing, retired, or otherwise employed medical, mental health, and public health professionals
- ✓ Community members without medical or healthcare training are needed to help with administrative, educational, and other essential support functions

Possible Volunteer Activities

- ◆ Community Health Education
- ◆ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Participation
- ◆ Disaster Preparedness Education
- ◆ Disaster Relief Services (includes emergency shelter staffing)
- ◆ Flu Clinic Staffing
- ◆ Health Screening Programs
- ◆ Mass Vaccination / Dispensing Clinic Staffing
- ◆ Program Development (grant-writing, program planning, program evaluation, etc.)





Volunteer Opportunities

- ◆ **Training** – Volunteer training has included courses in disaster mental health, shelter operations, Incident Command System, mass clinic operations, and mass medication dispensing
- ◆ **Educational Opportunities** – Local public health planning experts are invited as guest lecturers, CE credits are offered for select trainings, and online training opportunities are provided to volunteers.
- ◆ **Emergency Response** – Volunteers may assist with local and non-local events that warrant additional help
- ◆ **Community Involvement** – Volunteers have logged over 400 community service hours through such programs as flu clinics, health screening programs, and disaster preparedness education.

Recent Program & Volunteer Activities

- ◆ Annual Flu Clinics
- ◆ Department on Aging Fit Feet Program
- ◆ Emergency Preparedness Education
- ◆ Hurricane Katrina Response
- ◆ Public Health Preparedness Lecture Series
- ◆ Volunteer Program Development
- ◆ Mass Clinic Exercise and Training
- ◆ Immunization Screenings
- ◆ Slice of Life Orange County Employee Wellness Program





Top 5 Benefits of Volunteering

1. Knowing how to help during a disaster
2. Free training and other educational opportunities to help you learn more about public health preparedness and response
3. Community Involvement
4. Recognition as a affiliated emergency response volunteer
5. Volunteer liability coverage when helping during a disaster and other community health programs



I'm All Pumped Up! Now What?

- **Complete the registration form in your packet**
- **If applicable, provide your professional license number for verification**
- **Contact the Volunteer Coordinator to schedule an orientation**
- **Register for any upcoming trainings or educational programs**
- **Tell others that you're joining a new volunteer program (and pass our information along to family, friends, and colleagues)**



**We look forward to receiving your
registration form!**

To learn more about the Orange County Public Health Reserve Corps, visit our web page at www.co.orange.nc.us/health or visit our profile page at www.medicalreservecorps.gov.

Contact the Public Health Reserve Corps at 919-245-2388
with any questions.