



Resource Volunteer Program

Emergency Preparedness Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)



**DeKalb County Board of Health
Resource Volunteer Program
Emergency Preparedness**

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www.dekalbhealth.net



@HealthyDeKalb

The first response to a disaster is a local response

What is the Medical Reserve Corps?

There is a long and valued history and spirit of volunteerism in the United States. The Medical Reserve Corps, founded following the attacks and events of September 11, 2001, draws on this spirit to involve volunteers in strengthening public health, improving emergency preparedness and response, reducing vulnerabilities, and building community resilience. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is locally based in communities across the nation and is supported by the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response.

What is DeKalb County Board of Health's Volunteer Program?

There are many ways volunteers help DeKalb County residents have safer, healthier and longer lives. Opportunities include working with community groups to promote wellness, developing awareness campaigns and assisting in a clinic or office.

Why do we need volunteers?

When a disaster occurs, responding in the minutes, hours, and even days immediately following the event can quickly overwhelm local and regional emergency medical crews.

MRC and public health volunteers supplement both first responders and public health staff during emergency events. This increases the capacity for first responders and public health staff to respond quickly and effectively.

Volunteers also educate the residents of a community or region in being prepared before a disaster occurs.



Sample items for an Emergency Go Kit.

What do MRC volunteers do?

- **Set up and break down** assistance centers and shelters, provide counseling, run errands
- **Assist with the deployment of medical professionals** who will help with disasters in a hospital or in the field
- **Answer incoming calls** that may deal with terror threats or health concerns during an emergency
- **Assist with public health programs**, such as back-to-school and flu immunizations, surveys, education, health fairs, and more
- **Help lead** the MRC
- **Assist in training fellow MRC members** in CPR, first aid, and other skills to enhance the corps
- **Assist the MRC in tracking volunteers**, maintaining databases, and other administrative functions

Who can volunteer?

- **Community residents ages 17 and older** who can assist primary health teams with administrative services, communications, record keeping and many other essential support functions; no medical training is needed
- **Practicing and retired medical professionals**, such as doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians, pharmacists, hospital workers, public health workers, nurse's assistants, veterinarians, dentists, and others
- **Professionals** with skills in fundraising, grant writing, information management, communications, graphic design, and video production



Director's Message

"The DeKalb County Board of Health's Medical Reserve Corps plays a critical role in our county's preparedness and response efforts. In the event of a public health emergency in our county, MRC volunteers will be depended on to supplement first responders. The DeKalb County Board of Health's MRC is also involved in activities throughout the year that meet our county's overall health and wellness needs."

-S. Elizabeth Ford, M.D., M.B.A.



S. Elizabeth Ford, M.D., M.B.A.
District Health Director

Join the MRC today!

Your help is critical in safeguarding your community during an emergency. Remember: The first response to a disaster is a local response.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

DeKalb County Board of Health
404-294-3700

dekalb.mrc@dph.ga.gov

Visit us online at
www.dekalbhealth.net

Visit the national web site of the Medical Reserve Corps at
www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Volunteers of all backgrounds are needed.

No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help!

Thank you for your interest in serving your community.