



## Allen County Medical Reserve Corps Q & A

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

The mission of the Allen County MRC is to establish a team of local volunteer medical and public health professionals who can contribute their skills and expertise during times of community need. The Allen County MRC is building its volunteer base to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Who runs the program?

The Allen County MRC is administratively run through Allen County Public Health (ACPH), under the direction of Brandon Fischer, Health Commissioner.

### Who can join the Allen County MRC or any MRC in Ohio?

You must meet the following requirements:

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

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

No. We welcome anyone who is interested in helping their community, both medical and non-medical professionals with a wide range of skills. No experience is required.

### How do I become a member?

1. Please register at the [Ohio Responds](#) website in order to become an active approved volunteer. Click on the “Register Now” button.
  - On the registration page, please select the “Add Organizations” field.
  - When the window pops up, click on the “+” sign next to the please select the “Medical Reserve Corps Organizations.”
  - Check the box next to “Allen County – MRC.”
  - When you are creating your profile in the Ohio Responds Registry please add an email address. This will be our primary way of communicating with you.
2. Complete the Allen County MRC orientation online training course – click on the link “Allen County MRC PowerPoint Orientation” on the [Medical Reserve Corps](#) webpage.
3. Once you have completed your registration and online orientation, you are considered an active volunteer.

### What is expected of me?

Members should be able and willing to assist the ACPH staff with the COVID-19 pandemic response efforts. After the COVID-19 response, members are encouraged to continue to participate in activities and drills and support ongoing public health outreach and education projects.

### **What will my role be in the Allen County MRC?**

Your exact role within the Allen County MRC will depend upon your skills, interests and licensure, as well as needs in the community. Allen County MRC volunteer jobs could include assisting with alternate care sites and shelters, contact tracing, distributing medication to the public, providing mental health referral, staffing vaccination clinics, reviewing paperwork, performing data entry, or stocking supplies.

### **Will there be training?**

Yes.

Orientation: In addition to completing the Allen County MRC orientation training described above, training on the incident command system and national incident management system ([IS-100.c](#) and [IS-700.b](#)) is also highly recommended but not required. MRC training in [Ohio-Train](#) is also recommended.

### Other training:

Most trainings will be offered as Just in Time Training (JITT) prior to the activity/event. In addition, depending on your assignment, you may be asked to complete a MRC training plan for your role.

### **What are the benefits to me from my membership with the Allen County MRC?**

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

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

The time commitment depends on you. We expect that all members will participate in at least one volunteer activity and commit to serve for at least one full year.

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

Potential volunteers should determine if their job will allow them to be available to respond to the COVID-19 event.

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

All activities occur locally within the county. This does require the ability to arrange for your own transportation to and from assignment locations. For some activities, you may be able to volunteer from home.

### **What about liability?**

Volunteers have [liability protection](#) in the Ohio Revised Code 121.404 to registered Ohio MRC and Citizen Corps volunteers 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 Allen County MRC legally obligate me to volunteer in an emergency?**

No. Your service with the Allen County MRC is voluntary and you are not legally obligated to assist in an emergency or any other situation. At the 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 an Allen 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 will plan ahead and be prepared to assist your community.

**How will I be contacted?**

When you register on [www.ohioresponds.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.ohioresponds.odh.ohio.gov) you will enter your contact information into our secure registry maintained by the Ohio Department of Health. Be assured that this information will not be shared with any other entities.