

What type of training will I receive as an MD Responds volunteer?

MD Responds holds a few volunteer training sessions each year. Sessions consist of presentations on topics such as the Incident Command System, psychological first-aid for responders and victims of disasters, and State shelter operations. Volunteers will be trained in emergency preparedness and public health support functions so that when the need arises, you are ready to serve.

Once I have registered and completed the Road to Readiness, when can I anticipate being called to assist?

Volunteers will be called upon when local resources have been exhausted or are overwhelmed and additional help has been requested. In non-disaster situations volunteers may be asked to assist with community public health efforts such as seasonal flu clinics. Volunteer opportunities are dependent on a need so they cannot usually be predicted or scheduled in advance. Every attempt will be made to assign tasks compatible with license and skill set. You may refuse to accept an assignment at any time.

What kind of tasks would I be assigned?

All major tasks will be outlined in the activation request, and they vary based on situational needs. You may be asked to perform tasks related to your profession, trade, or skills or you may be given an opportunity to assist with duties unrelated to your profession. These tasks will be compatible with your skill set or within the guidelines of your medical license. You may always refuse to do an assignment if you are uncomfortable with it for any reason.

Can I register in MD Responds if I'm not currently licensed or if I do not have any experience or training in public health or healthcare?

Yes. Whether you are actively licensed, a student, retired health professional, or someone with an interest in volunteering during a public health emergency, you are encouraged to register. Because many health personnel will already be committed to a role during an emergency, there is a need to recruit "non-licensed" personnel who will assist health professionals when the need arises.

Eligible for Deployment

The Road to Readiness (R2R) initiative was developed to help Maryland Responders complete the steps required for volunteer deployment. All Maryland Responders, regardless of professional background, must complete the Road to Readiness steps to be eligible for participation in Maryland Responds deployments and to be protected by state liability coverage during deployments.



Charles County Department of Health
Public Health Preparedness & Response Services
4545 Crain Highway
White Plains, MD 20695

Mary Lilly, Unit Administrator
mary.lilly@maryland.gov
301.609.6762

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**MARYLAND
RESPONDS**
MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS
CHARLES COUNTY UNIT

MISSION

The mission of MD Responds is to establish a statewide volunteer network of medical and public health professionals which is integrated into established community emergency systems to facilitate a coordinated approach to volunteer management.

GOAL

Enhance Maryland's emergency preparedness and response capabilities by augmenting county- and state-level public health and medical services with a source of pre-identified, credentialed and trained volunteers.



The Charles County MDRMRC Unit is managed by the
Charles County Department of Health
Suzan Lowry, MD Health Officer

MD Responds is administered by the Maryland Department of
Health, Office of Preparedness & Response



MARYLAND RESPONDS

ARE YOU READY FOR ANYTHING?

VISION

The vision of the Maryland Responds MRC is a strong and collaborative network of Local MRC Units in every county in Maryland that consist of dedicated volunteers who build resilient communities and reduce disaster risks for a prepared Maryland

The Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Network is a community-based, civilian, volunteer program that helps build the public health infrastructure and response capabilities of Maryland communities. The Maryland Responds MRC Network consists of dedicated Responders who stand ready to volunteer their skills, expertise and time to support ongoing public health initiatives and assist during emergencies.

The Maryland Responds MRC Network Program is composed of the State MRC Program, which is housed within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), Office of Preparedness and Response (OP&R) and 24 Local Units housed within Local Health Departments throughout the State. State and Local MRC Unit Administrators work together to organize and train Maryland Responders to address a wide range of challenges from public health education to disaster response. The Maryland Responds MRC is also a part of the National MRC Network which comprises 991 community-based units and almost 200,000 volunteers located throughout the United States and its territories. To learn more about the National MRC Network, visit: <https://mrc.hhs.gov/pageviewfldr/About>.

BEING A MD RESPONDS VOLUNTEER

Membership with MD Responds is open to anyone over 18 years of age who is able and willing to assist in the event of an emergency, participate in annual exercises and drills, and support ongoing public health outreach initiatives. Volunteers can choose to respond to an incident based on their availability and even identify where they would like to support events by selecting specific Maryland counties or even out-of-state deployment. During deployments, MD Responds volunteers are provided state of Maryland workers' compensation and liability coverage. As an MD Responds volunteer, you will gain access to a comprehensive emergency response and preparedness training program, both on-site and Web-based.

REGISTER ONLINE

Prepare and help protect your community by becoming a Maryland Responder today. Visit mdresponds.health.maryland.gov. To learn more about the program, go to: mdr.health.maryland.gov.

The initial registration process will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Additional training is needed to become eligible for deployment.

WHAT MD RESPONDS VOLUNTEERS DO

MD Responds volunteers may deliver a variety of necessary medical and public health services, such as providing direct care to individuals seeking medical attention at relief shelters and assisting with mass medication distribution efforts. MD Responds volunteers may also serve a vital role by assisting their communities with ongoing public health needs (e.g., immunizations, screenings, health and nutrition education, volunteering in community health centers and local hospitals).

Q & A's ON BEING A MARYLAND RESPONDER

Do I have to be available whenever a request is made to me?

No, you do not have to respond or be available for every request that MD Responds makes. The deployment process starts when a local health department (LHD) or a State agency approaches MD Responds with a need for volunteers. Once that request is approved, MD Responds will send out a request for help to all of our volunteers who meet the requirements of the mission. Volunteers who are available and willing to help respond to our request and are deployed.

