Sonoma County
Medical Reserve Corps:
Introduction and Welcome

2019-20
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Public Health Preparedness
Christine Love
A Nationwide Effort

-Begun after 9-11
-Under national HHS

As of 2018:
-ca 200K volunteers
-ca. 930 MRC units
-strengthens public health and community resilience
Why Do We Need MRC Volunteers?

Protect the Public Health and Respond to Emergencies

To provide surge capacity for the local health care system:

• dispense medication at mass dispensing sites
• support medical, access, and functional needs at evacuation shelters
• expand hospital capacity during disaster
• assist with distribution of health information
Who are the Volunteers?

Health Professionals
- Nurses
- Physicians
- EMTs, Paramedics
- Pharmacists

Mental Health Professionals
- LCSW, MFT, Psychiatric Technicians

Technical/Support Staff
- Community members
**MRC Performance Qualifications - core competencies:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Follow procedures to successfully <strong>activate, report and demobilize.</strong></td>
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<td>Understand <strong>communication responsibilities</strong> and procedures.</td>
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<td>Describe the <strong>chain of command</strong> (e.g. NIMS, ICS, EMS) used during MRC activities.</td>
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<td>Describe how MRC <strong>serves the community.</strong></td>
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<td>Attend to the impact of an event on the <strong>behavioral health</strong> of the MRC member and their family, team, and community.</td>
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<td>Demonstrate <strong>cultural awareness</strong> during MRC activities.</td>
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<td>Identify the <strong>role of public health</strong> in the community.</td>
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<td>Develop a <strong>personal and family preparedness</strong> plan.</td>
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<td>Demonstrate <strong>safe, professional and ethical behaviors</strong> during MRC activities.</td>
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Sonoma County MRC
At The Ready

381 total volunteers

209 Nurses
33 Physicians/PAs
48 Mental Health Practitioners
16 Pharmacists/other medical
20 EMT/Paramedics
55 Other & Support
How are Volunteers Trained?

Orientation
- MRC roles and responsibilities
- Emergency Management/SEMS/ ICS
- “Category A” biological agents and other health hazards
- Health Dept. emergency response plans

Ongoing training
On-line and in person

Drills & exercises
(website & email announcements)
- Phone/email notification drills
- Points of dispensing (POD) and hospital exercises
- Statewide exercises

Just-in-time training
at deployment
Web Resources

- Disaster Planning Information
  - www.ready.gov
  - www.fema.gov/plan
  - www.redcross.org

- DHV Volunteer Handbook

- Training Resources online
  - MRC-Train  https://www.mrc.train.org/desktopshell.aspx
  - NACCHO  https://www.naccho.org/resources/webinars
  - FEMA  https://www.fema.gov/training

- Pandemic Flu Planning Checklist
Possible Deployment Locations

Mass Dispensing Sites/Points of Dispensing (PODs)
providing pills or vaccine to large numbers of people

Alternate Care Sites
When hospitals are full, providing medical care or other support at government-run settings such as a shuttered hospital.
Possible Deployment Locations

Hospital or Evacuation Shelter

- supporting hospitals to manage a surge of patients....
- or
- helping patients with functional or medical needs at a shelter
Possible deployment locations

You might be assigned to help at Public Health:

- Provide surge staffing for PH Disease Control
- Assist with dissemination of messages to the public regarding the health emergency
- Assist with disease investigation

RABIES ALERT

On Sunday May 23 a fox with rabies was killed in the neighborhood of Arata Lane and Brooks Road North in Windsor.

If you were in the area and came in contact with or were bitten by a fox, please contact Sonoma County Public Health: 707-565-4567

If your pet came in contact with or was bitten by a fox please call Sonoma County Animal Control: 707-565-7100

General Information:
- Pet owners are reminded to get their animals vaccinated.
- Never approach or attempt to touch wildlife or animals you do not know.
- Rabies exists in wild animals throughout California, such as dogs, bats, foxes and other carnivores. If you see animals that act strangely, stay away.
- If you or your pet is bitten by a wild animal, contact your medical provider or veterinarian immediately.

Sonoma County Animal Control Website: http://www.sonoma-county.com/shelter/rabies.htm

California Department of Public Health Website:
http://www.cdhk.ca.gov/HealthLink/discountPages/rabies.aspx
A POD, or point of dispensing, is a site where large numbers of people come to get medications quickly.

- Usually PODs are government operations.
- Usually PODs are for emergency dispensing, so normal medical procedures are streamlined.
PODs ~ Calculations

Provide medications or vaccine to Sonoma County (pop. ~500,000):

- IF 12% go to worksite or closed PODs run by others
- IF all PODS run 24/7 and all process at same rate

VACCINE - Smallpox scenario - tx in 5 days. 14 PODs with 15 vaccinators /POD x ~300 people/hr
  *Each vaccinator serves ~20 people/hr

PILLS - Anthrax scenario - tx in 48 hours; 4-11 PODs with 10 dispensers/POD x ~300 people (for up to 12,987 family members)/hr
  *Each dispenser serves ~30 people/hr
Some POD Positions

- Entrance staff
- Patient educator
- Line monitor
- Triage staff*
- First aid staff*
- Traffic controller
- Counseling team*
- Clinical screener*
- Medication dispenser*
- Runners
- Pharmacy staff*
- Exit staff

*Requires medical license
Some Emergency Shelter Functions

- Reception
- Health monitoring
- Triage
- First aid assistance
- Staff support
- Registration
- Traffic control
- Child Care

- Prescription Drug Mgt.
- Contagious Disease Control
- Mental Health services
- Food services
- Language translation

Some require medical license
MRC Supports Community Health

Hands-only CPR training to 7th graders

Homeless Census

Wednesday Night Market
Wherever you serve—Safety First!

Personal Self Care:
- Use PPE – masks, gloves, etc. as indicated
- Don’t perform beyond your ability to do so safely
- Keep your go-kit updated & keep it with you

Mental Health Self Care:
- Monitor yourself for stress symptoms
- Team up & support each other
- Take “mental health” breaks as needed
MRC Volunteer - Steps

- DHV Registration
  www.healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov/
  • Your contact info, Notifications, Drills, Daily license check

- County Volunteer Application / Oath / ID Badge/Go-Kit
  - Liability & Workers Comp; Confidentiality

- Orientation & training
  (also www.Sonoma-county.org/health/services/mrc.asp)
MRC Notification

Email
- Email from Public Health or DHV website requesting your availability
- If you are available further emails and calls will follow with specifics and details (location, situation, needs, shifts, etc).

Telephone
- Message from Public Health or the DHV system (recorded human or a robot voice) re your availability.
  - The DHV robot voice may sound like a telemarketing call—*listen before hanging up*.
- You may be asked to call a phone number or go to a website for information or sign up.
MRC Volunteer

Sonoma County Medical Reserve Corps

MRC Handbook

2014 Contents

• Prepare Your Family
• Prepare Yourself
• When You Serve
• Mutual Commitment

http://www.sonoma-county.org/mrc
MRC Volunteer

- Keep your contact information current on DHV
- Take trainings whenever possible
- Participate in exercises and drills
- If you sign up, show up or let us know if you can’t.

When disaster strikes:
- Consider your home & work commitments to decide if you can serve
- Double-check your home emergency plans and supplies
- Tune in to local radio and TV to monitor the situation
- Stand by
Department of Health Services
Thanks you for Being At the Ready and for Volunteering!