

New York City



# New York City Medical Reserve Corps



**March 2015**

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## The 3rd Annual NYC Medical Reserve Corps Symposium *Confronting Ebola*

*Sunday, April 26th*

*NYU Kimmel Center*

**60 Washington Square South, NYC**

**9:30 am—3:30 pm**

Join us as we hear from **Sheri Fink, MD, MPH** and NY Times reporter about her observations in West Africa, **Dario Gonzalez, MD, FDNY** about his experiences providing medical care in West Africa, **Mitchell Strippling, MPA Assistant Commissioner, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**, discussing the NYC response to Ebola. **Mary T Bassett, MD, MPH, NYC Commissioner of Health** will welcome you to this event.

**We will also recognize those who served in 2015, in particular those who served during the Ebola crisis.**

To register, please go to: <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>

## Why I Volunteer



**Karin Abbinante, RN**

### How long have you been a member of NYC MRC?

I joined MRC in 2002 after the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks.

### What is your profession?

I am an RN at NYU Langone Medical Center. I work in an Operating Room and in the Perioperative Department.

### What MRC activities have you participated in lately?

I have attended many FDNY exercises, and training classes, including: Ebola 101, POD Core Training and Radiation Exposure.

### Are you involved in any other volunteer activities?

I recently worked at the Ebola Call Center and assisted the NYC Health Department with daily phone calls to health care workers and travelers from West Africa. I also worked during Hurricane Sandy in local shelters assisting with displaced Queens residents.

### Why do you volunteer for NYC MRC?

I have always been interested in International Humanitarian work. Volunteering with MRC has allowed me to assist my community during disasters and public health issues. The ongoing training has allowed me to meet some amazing people and has been very valuable in my nursing practice.

# Notes on Our New Registration System



As many of you have discovered, we began using our MRC Self-Scheduling System (SSS) for emergency events and training registrations. The purpose of this system is to allow you to become accustomed to the tool, and for us to find and fix any “kinks” that may exist.

## Here are some things you should know about logging on:

- The Self-Scheduling System coordinates with ServNY to confirm your identity. You must enter your first name, last name and email address *exactly as you entered in your ServNY* profile. Failure to provide the exact information will result in an automated “Error in verifying your credentials” message and you will be unable to log in.
- Once logged in to the SSS, it will ask you to confirm your current phone number.
- When your phone number has been validated, you will arrive at the “Search Shifts” page. Click on the “Event” drop down to choose the event you are interested in. You will then see the entire list of shift dates, shift times and total needs available for your profession.
- You can choose to narrow your search on the “Search Shifts” page by choosing a “Borough” or a date range in the “Search Between” drop down.
- If all shifts for an event or site are full, it will not appear on your screen. This means if you are looking for an event, and you cannot find it, it is closed to new registrants.
- Once you have successfully registered, the system will automatically send you a confirmation email
- This system is designed to be used on a computer. It has some compatibility with Droid tablets, but does not work with iPads and is not phone enabled.



Thank you for your patience with learning this new system. It is our hope that SSS will make it much easier for you to volunteer during large scale emergencies, smaller events as well as trainings.

## Upcoming Trainings and Events

### MRC Orientation

This training is an introduction to NYC MRC. It is a great overview for both new members and longtime members, and is the prerequisite for our most popular trainings. Orientation covers how MRC fits into the bigger emergency response picture, what NYC MRC members will do, what protections are offered, and what you can do to be prepared.

**Date:** Thursday, March 12th

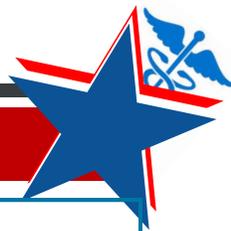
**Time:** 6:00pm – 8:00pm

**Location:** 125 Worth Street, New York, NY

**Registration:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>



# Upcoming Trainings and Events



## Mental Health First Aid

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) will be hosting MHFA trainings, an evidence-based training to empower non-mental health professionals to better identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness. The one-day, 8-hour training will cover mental health topics such as depression, anxiety, psychosis and substance use. This training is open to *all* NYC MRC members.



**Date:** Friday, March 20th

**Time:** 6:00pm — 8:00 pm

**Location:** DOHMH, 42-09 28th Street, Room 14-31, LIC Queens

**Registration:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>

## Emergency Management of Radiation Accident Victims Symposium

This full-day training is open to members of the MRC Radiological Reserve Corps and those who wish to become members. This training will be conducted by the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TS). CME credits will be available.



**Date:** Sunday, March 29th

**Time:** 8:30am—5:00pm

**Location:** TBA

**Registration:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>

## Radiation and Terrorism: A Guide for Healthcare Workers and First Responders

This training will give the participants a basic understanding of:

- 1) Radiation, including types and measurement
- 2) Biological effects associated with radiation exposure
- 3) Safety precautions and exposure control techniques
- 4) EPA and CDC Guidelines for responding to a radiological event

**Date:** Tuesday, April 7th

**Time:** 6:00pm — 8:00 pm

**Location:** The Churchill School, 301 E. 29th Street, New York, NY 10016

**Registration:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>





## Upcoming Trainings and Events

### Nursing Home Winter Storm Exercise

In collaboration with the Department of Health and the Primary Care Development Corporation, 15 nursing homes are participating in a Winter Storm Blackout Exercise at their facilities. MRC has been asked to provide three MRC members to play patients at each site. MRC members will be playing a variety of patients, and role descriptions will be provided. A webinar (offered both in the day and evening for your convenience) will be given to prepare you for your role as a patient.

**Date:** Wednesday, April 22nd

**Time:** 9:00am - 12:00pm

**Registration:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>

**The following locations still need volunteers:**

**Workmen's Circle Multicare**

3155 Grace Avenue, Bronx, NY

Transportation: 5 Train. Parking available.

**Queens Nassau Rehab and Nursing Center**

520 Beach 19th Street, Far Rockaway, NY

Transportation: A Train. Parking available.

**Throgs Neck Extended Care Facility**

707 Throgs Neck Expressway, Bronx, NY

Transportation: BxM9 or BxB buses. Parking available.

**Kings Harbor Multicare Center**

2000 East Gun Hill Road, Bronx, NY

Transportation: Bx12 or Bx26 busses, 5 Train. Parking available.



### Exercise Design, Conduct & Evaluation

This session will cover design, conduct and evaluation of preparedness exercises that can help ensure an organization's plans and employees are ready before an emergency occurs. The presentation will cover the crafting of objectives, the selection of planning team members, the exercise design process and the development and use of evaluation guides.

**Michael McCollum**, a FEMA-certified Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP) and the Director of Exercises and Training at the NYC DOHMH, will be presenting.

**Date:** Thursday, April 30th

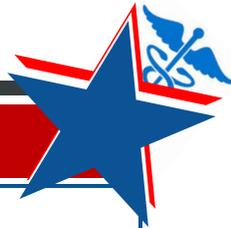
**Time:** 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Location:** The Churchill School, 301 E. 29th Street, New York, NY 10016

**Registration:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>



## Upcoming Trainings and Events



### CPR PRO

NYC MRC is providing CPR Pro Training to our MRC volunteers. This class provides a professional, hands-on level training. Certification cards will be provided to those who pass. You must have attended an MRC Orientation plus at least one other training, exercise or deployment in the last year to register for this class.



**Date:** Sunday, May 3rd

**Time:** 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Location:** NYC Office of Emergency Management, 165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY

**Registration:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>

### Join NYC MRC for Aids Walk NY 2015

NYC Medical Reserve Corps will again sponsor a team for the Aids Walk, which will be held on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> in Central Park. This is an opportunity to show New Yorkers our MRC pride, raise money for a good cause, and get to know some great MRC members.

To learn more, register for our team, and/or donate, go to:

<https://ny.aidswalk.net/Team/View/5658/NYC-Medical-Reserve-Corps-8264>



### Infection Control

DOHMH is responsible, in biological emergencies, for preventing exposure and transmission in all sectors of NYC. This effort is challenged by the size of the city, and by the many and intricate interfaces and interactions between and among populations, infrastructures, and environments. Standard infection and exposure control guidance tends to address discrete populations, predictable exposures, and controlled environments. Nevertheless, established infection control principles, adapted to account for scale, complexity, and uncertainty, provide a sound basis for effectively managing all phases of a biological emergency. This presentation examines infection control for Ebola and other large scale, population based, infection and exposure control in our multifaceted and densely populated urban environment.

This presentation will be given by **Pamela Kellner, RN, MPH**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 19th

**Time:** 6:00pm — 8:00pm

**Location:** The Churchill School, 301 E. 29th Street, New York, NY

**Registration:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>



### Commodity Distribution Point Training Program

The Commodity Distribution Point (CDP) Program is a coordinated, City-led operation to distribute temporarily unavailable life-sustaining commodities such as food, water, ice, and baby formula to the public following an emergency or disaster that disrupts access to traditional supply chains. Primary CDP sites have been identified throughout the five boroughs, one in each community district, to use as points of distribution. NYC Emergency Management is looking to build a team of trained individuals who may be called upon to volunteer at one of these CDP sites during an emergency response. NYC Emergency Management will be hosting monthly CDP trainings for interested volunteers from January to June 2015. You only have to attend ONE session. Events are from 6:30pm—8:30pm.

To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/commodity-distribution-point-training-tickets-12601436235>

# BE A LEADER—Apply to be a POD Core Team Member



The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is seeking leaders to become Point-of-Dispensing (POD) Core Team (PCT) members to help manage Points-of-Dispensing during public health emergencies. PODs are temporary emergency sites set-up and opened to dispense life-saving medical countermeasures as rapidly as possible to prevent people from becoming ill or dying of a disease. Medical countermeasures include antibiotics and vaccines.

PCTs are comprised of six staff members who serve as the leadership team in the POD. Each POD operates independently with support from the POD Operations Center. The PCTs are responsible for working together to make on-site decisions and manage POD operations.

PCT positions include: POD Team Leader, POD Administration Manager, POD Operations Manager, Screening Unit Leader, Dispensing Unit Leader, and Flow Monitor Unit Leader. DOHMH is also seeking individuals interested in filling the roles of Medical Evaluation Unit Leader and Mental Health/REST Unit Leader. Position descriptions can be found in the application.

PCT candidates should be willing to make their POD assignment a priority in the event of a POD activation. During a POD activation, PCT members may work long hours and odd times (12 hour shifts, overnight and/or weekends). POD Core Team members will be pre-assigned to a POD site based on their residential address.

Ideal PCT candidates will possess the skills and demonstrated ability to:

- Work and make decisions independently
- Lead and manage staff while working under pressure
- Coordinate and delegate responsibilities
- Effectively communicate instructions to staff and the public



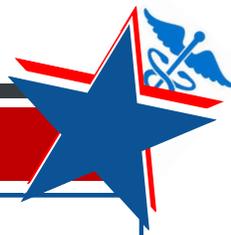
To apply to become a member of the POD Core Team, please follow this link to complete the application: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PODCoreTeamLeader>

If you applied previously, please log on to the survey and confirm that you are still interested in being a POD Core Team member.

Accepted candidates will be expected to attend a PCT information session. PCT members are also required to attend an in-person POD Core Team Operations Training every two years. Dates for the PCT Information Sessions and PCT Operations Training will be advertised when available.

If you have any questions, please email [healthmrc@health.nyc.gov](mailto:healthmrc@health.nyc.gov)

**Application deadline is March 30, 2015**



## Articles of Interest

### CDC Puts *C Difficile* Burden at 453,000 Cases, 29,000 Deaths

On the basis of a 2011 study, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has increased its estimate of the annual burden of *Clostridium difficile* infections in the United States, putting it at 453,000 cases per year, with 29,300 associated deaths. The agency, which released findings in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, said they point up the need for better antibiotic stewardship and rigorous infection control in healthcare facilities.

<http://bit.ly/1AsF8Vo>

### Trial of Ebola drug ZMapp launches in Liberia, US

The National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) announced today that it and Liberia's government have launched the first clinical trial of ZMapp, a monoclonal antibody treatment that has been used on an emergency basis to treat some Ebola patients, especially sick health workers who were evacuated from the outbreak region.

<http://bit.ly/1E4KKb2>

### Volunteering in Public Health

Without volunteers to rely on, it is hard to imagine how the public health industry could fulfill its mission. The impact of volunteerism goes far beyond the doctors and nurses who volunteer their time and expertise to free clinics. Many people who want to help others do not need health care experience to support efforts like educating the public about health and safety issues, answering phones at clinics and health hotlines, or delivering meals to seniors. This article covers the social and economic impact of volunteers, and the personal benefits to those who choose to donate their time.

<http://www.publichealth.org/volunteering/>

## Update Your Record

We rely on the data in **ServNY** to reach you in times of emergency or disaster. It is very important to keep your record up to date. You can do this in three ways:

- 1) Update your own record at: <http://bit.ly/1C5YvCr>
- 2) Send your current/new data to: [healthmrc@health.nyc.gov](mailto:healthmrc@health.nyc.gov)
- 3) Call us at **347-233-1545** or **347-396-6248**

**Thank You!**

