

New York City



New York City  
Medical Reserve  
Corps



August 2013

42-09 28 St., Queens NY 11101

347-723-1696

[healthmrc@health.nyc.gov](mailto:healthmrc@health.nyc.gov)

### NYC MRC Notification Drill



We will conduct our quarterly NYC MRC Emergency Notification Drill the week of September 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be using a different notification system called Dialogics. The call

will come from the 212 area code. You can only respond live to the phone notification. If you receive it on your voice mail you cannot respond. The message will come by phone and by email. Once you respond, no more messages will be sent. Please make every effort to participate in this drill.

### BE A LEADER – Apply to be part of the POD Core Team



The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is seeking leaders to become Point-of-Dispensing

Core Team members (PCT) to help manage Points-of-Dispensing during public health emergencies. As you may know, 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 vaccine.

### Why I volunteer



Dolores Ranghelli, RN

**Dolores Ranghelli, RN**

**Profession:** RN and Counselor

**How many years have you been a member of NYC MRC?** – Since October 2012

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

Fire in a Park Ave high rise (2 days before Sandy)  
Pod Training  
Hepatitis A Vaccination campaign  
FDNY Staten Island subway fire exercise  
FDNY Times Square high rise fire exercise  
Using Social Media,  
Basic Disaster Life Support

**Are you involved with any other volunteer activities?**

Activities working w/ seniors  
2013 Aids Walk (staff),

**Why do you volunteer for NYC MRC?**

I am happy to be able to use my nursing and counseling skills again for such an important endeavor.

PCTs are comprised of six staff members who set up PODs, assign and train incoming general staff, and manage operations once the site is open to the public. PCT members work 12-hour shifts and are required to attend an in-person PCT Operations Training every other year. PCT position descriptions are located at the end of the application.

Candidates should be willing to make their POD assignment a priority in the event of a disaster or emergency. POD Core Team members will be pre-assigned to a POD site based on their residential address.

Ideal candidates will possess skills and demonstrated ability to:

1. Work and make decisions independently
2. Lead and manage staff while working under pressure
3. Coordinate and delegate responsibilities
4. 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/PODTeamLeader>

**Deadline is September 11, 2013**



## **Radiation Symposium: Protective Action Recommendations Following an RDD Event**

The Bureau of Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

invites you to the 6th ANNUAL RADIATION SAFETY OFFICER SYMPOSIUM. This is a one-day free event open to radiation safety officers, emergency professionals, and others interested in radiological emergency planning, preparedness and response.

The Symposium will focus on “Protective Action Recommendations Following an RDD (Radiological Dispersal Device or Dirty Bomb) event”. If such an incident occurs in NYC, the public will need instructions to avoid undue risk from radiation by taking such measures as evacuation or sheltering. Public authorities, emergency response professionals and radiation experts also need to know about protective action guides (PAGs) and their implications for health and safety.

During this one-day event a distinguished group of experts will be speaking about the consequences of a radiological emergency and the protective action measures that can be implemented to minimize the risk of radiation exposure to the public and emergency workers. Seating is limited and all registrations must be received by the September 27, 2013. **See attached flyer.**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 2, 2013      8:30 am to 4:00 pm

**Location: Columbia University Medical Center**  
Riverview Terrace Room (near 165th Street)  
173 Fort Washington Avenue, New York, NY

**Please follow the following link to register:**

<http://nycrso2013.eventbrite.com> (Please remember to register only once)

# MRC TRAININGS

## Active Shooter: What You Can Do?

**Dates:** Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> OR Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>

**Locations:** August 6<sup>th</sup> Wagner College, Spiro Hall, Staten Island  
August 8<sup>th</sup> NYU 60 Washington Square South, Manhattan

**Time:** 6:00pm – 8:00pm (  
5:30pm – registration and light dinner

**To register, go to:**

<http://nycmractiveshooterwhatyoucando.eventbrite.com/>



An “**Active Shooter**” is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined space or other populated area. In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Typically, the immediate deployment of law enforcement is required to stop the shooting and mitigate harm to victims.

Active shooters usually will continue to move throughout building or area until stopped by law enforcement, suicide, or other intervention.

This course provides guidance to individuals, including managers and employees, so that they can prepare to respond to an active shooter situation.

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe actions to take when confronted with an active shooter and responding law enforcement officials.
- Describe actions to take to prevent and prepare for potential active shooter incidents.
- Describe how to manage the consequences of an active shooter incident.

Not all recommendations provided here will be applicable at every facility. This course is intended to provide guidance to enhance facility-specific plans and procedures as well as personal preparedness if the individual becomes involved in an active shooter situation.

## MRC Orientation

**Date:** Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** 125 Worth St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Boardroom, Manhattan

**Time:** 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
5:30 – registration and light dinner

**To register, go to:** <http://nycmrcorientation2013.eventbrite.com>

This training is an introduction to 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 MRC members will do, what protections are offered, and what you can do to be prepared.

## Responding to Pediatric Disasters

**Date:** Tuesday, August 20

**Time:** 6:00pm – 8:00 pm

**Location:** Churchill School, 301 East 29 St, Manhattan  
5:30 – registration and light dinner

**To register, go to:**

<http://nycmrcrespondingtopediatricdisasters.eventbrite.com/>



How are pediatric injuries handled during emergencies?  
What makes an event a pediatric disaster? How can you

help? Please join us as two experts in Pediatric Disaster Medicine share their experiences and knowledge.

Dr. George Foltin is Vice Chair for Pediatric Clinical Services at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. Previous to joining Maimonides, Dr. Foltin was the Division Director for Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Bellevue Hospital Center/NYU Langone Medical Center for twenty five years. His specialty is Pediatric Hospital Medicine as well as Pediatric Emergency Medicine. Dr. Foltin has dedicated his career to developing emergency services for children and pediatric trauma programs. He is also experienced at disaster preparedness for children.

Dr. Michael Frogel.MD, FAAP. Is a pediatrician and part of the NYC Pediatric Disaster Coalition. He practices at Cohen's Children's Hospital, part of North Shore University Hospital, as well as conducting humanitarian work in Israel.

## MRC in Action

### SUNY Downstate Disaster Olympics



On Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, MRC members participated in the SUNY Downstate Disaster Olympics with SUNY Downstate staff and medical students. The goal of the exercise was to test the medical students' knowledge, to determine readiness of the hospital, and to pilot test the new

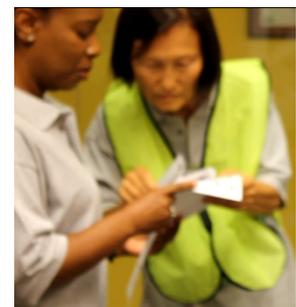


NYS Patient Tracker System. Five areas were established: Triage, POD, Infection Control, Patient Tracker, and pharmacy. Some MRC members were used as clinicians and some acted as patients. Thanks to MRC, the Disaster Olympics exercise established a learning environment for medical students

and staff to practice their emergency response plans, policies and procedures. This could not have been possible without MRC's help!

### DOHMH POD Throughput Exercise

On July 17<sup>th</sup> thirty NYC MRC members walked in circles for a good cause. The POD Throughput Exercise was designed to calculate the time it would take for 2,000 forms (some pre-screened forms and some forms that needed screening) to be processed in a POD. These calculations will be used to determine how many PODs will be needed in the event of a biological disaster where mass prophylaxis is needed. MRC members walked in circles for an hour or more. Some acted out and really created some excitement in the exercise. Thanks to all who participated!



## Articles of Interest

### Release of FEMA Hurricane Sandy After Action Report

On July 26th, FEMA released its *Hurricane Sandy After-Action Report* (AAR). The AAR reviews all aspects of the Agency's preparations for, immediate response to, and initial recovery from, the October 2012 storm.

The final AAR document identifies both strengths and areas for improvement and provides recommendations for future response and recovery efforts. The supporting recommendations were organized across four overarching themes:

- **Theme 1:** Ensuring unity of effort across the Federal response: In response to Sandy, FEMA coordinated a large-scale mobilization of Federal teams, supplies, and other assets both before and immediately after landfall. Addressing the areas for improvement and associated recommendations will ensure that FEMA and its Federal partners efficiently deliver Federal support.
- **Theme 2:** Being Survivor-Centric: Responding to and recovering from disasters is ultimately about meeting survivors' needs. In the wake of Sandy, FEMA established a large field presence of deployed personnel who innovated to reach more survivors and improve their experiences with the Agency.
- **Theme 3:** Fostering unity of effort across the whole community: During Sandy, FEMA demonstrated progress in integrating its response and recovery efforts with the whole community. FEMA must continue to work with community members before incidents occur and integrate whole community partners during incident response and recovery.
- **Theme 4:** Developing an agile, professional emergency management workforce: FEMA completed one of the largest personnel deployments in its history at a time when major efforts to transform the Agency's disaster workforce were still underway. Sandy revealed challenges that large-scale incidents create for managing employees during a disaster response, including deployment issues and the ability to maintain steady state operations.

For many of the Sandy survivors, recovery will be measured in years, not months. FEMA remains committed to working with the whole community to meet the long-term needs of survivors and to helping the impacted communities to recover and rebuild. The Sandy After-Action will serve as a guide to allow FEMA to develop programs and adapt Agency processes to provide the best possible service to survivors and fulfill the Agency's mission.

The report can be downloaded from <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7906>.

### More States Report Cyclospora Cases: Total Reaches 373

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in an update yesterday said it had received reports of 353 cases of Cyclospora as of July 26, 2013, but Iowa, Nebraska, and Texas have reported more cases since then. The national total could be as high as 373 cases. To read more about this, go to:

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2013/07/more-states-report-cyclospora-cases-total-reaches-373>

### NYPD Studying Airflow in Subway to Prepare for Gas Attack

On July 8<sup>th</sup> the New York Police Department began pumping tracer gasses through the New York City subway system to learn what the ramifications might be if terrorists launch a chemical gas attack. The findings from the study will be used to create emergency plans for responding to a chemical terrorist attack. To read more, go to:

<http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/nypd-studying-airflow-subway-prepare-gas-attack/>



## ILI Surveillance

If you are a clinician (MD, DO, PA, NP, RN) in direct contact with patients on a regular basis, we need your help!

We are seeking people who work in:

Hospital Clinics

Community Health Care Centers

Private Clinics

Private Practice

University Health Centers

**Now you can help with Influenza Surveillance in only a few minutes a week!**

As part of the Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Network (**ILINet**) an ILINet provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness in collaboration with the NY State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by ILINet providers, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, provide a state and nationwide picture of influenza virus and ILI activity. NYS ILINet providers are part of a national network of more than 3,000

healthcare providers in 50 states reporting over 25 million patient visits each year.

### **Why Volunteer?**

Influenza viruses are constantly evolving and cause substantial morbidity and mortality every season. ILINet data is critical in monitoring the course of influenza virus activity on the local, state, and national level. Also, ILINet data, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, has been used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care. ILINet providers receive feedback on the data submitted, summaries of regional, statewide and national influenza data, and free subscriptions to CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly* and *Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal*. The most important consideration is that the data provided is critical for protecting the public's health.

# 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RADIATION SAFETY OFFICER SYMPOSIUM

## Protective Action Recommendations Following an RDD Event

### WHERE:

Columbia University  
Medical Center  
173 Fort Washington Ave  
New York, NY  
at the Riverview Terrace Room  
(near 165<sup>th</sup>)

### WHEN:

Wednesday, October 2, 2013  
8:30 am – 4:00 pm

**Register early.  
Attendance is free.  
Seating is limited.**

This symposium is made possible by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiatives.



### SAVE THE DATE

The Bureau of Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene invites you to a one day free symposium.

This symposium is the 6th of its kind and will focus on “Protective Action Recommendations Following an RDD (Radiological Dispersal Device or Dirty Bomb) event”. If such an incident occurs in NYC, the public will need instructions to avoid undue risk from radiation by taking such measures as evacuation or sheltering. Public authorities, emergency response professionals and radiation experts also need to know about protective action guides (PAGs) and their implications for health and safety.

During this one-day event a distinguished group of experts will be speaking about the consequences of a dirty bomb and the protective action measures that can be implemented to minimize the risk of radiation exposure to the public and emergency workers.

### Topics Include

- Recent updates on radiological terrorism
- Initial response actions
- Protective Action Guides (PAGs)
- Remediation and Recovery Challenges

**Register at:** <http://nycrso2013.eventbrite.com>

The Deadline for registration is September 27<sup>th</sup> For additional information call: 646 632 6569

➔ **Please forward to your colleagues who may be interested.**