

New York City



New York City Medical Reserve Corps



August 2015

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Why I Volunteer



Megan Flynn, EMT

How long have you been a member of NYC MRC?

I have been a members since August 2007.

What is your profession?

Administrative Assistant, studying to become an medical assistant.

What MRC activities have you participated in lately?

BP Screening in the South Bronx, BDLS

Are you involved in any other volunteer activities?

Red Cross Volunteer, Central Park Medical Unit

Why do you volunteer for NYC MRC?

MRC is an amazing chance to help with real-life emergencies in the city, while working with professionals from city agencies and all aspects of the medical field, and the training opportunities are unmatched.

CRC Full Scale RAD Exercise

When: Wed, Aug 19

Where: Aviation High School, 45-30 36 St, LIC , NY

Time: 8:30am—3:00 pm (approx. end time)

Purpose: To practice the set-up of a Community Reception Center (CRC) after a dirty bomb has been detonated in New York City.

The NYC Fire Department will set-up the public facing portion of the CRC in the school gymnasium in order to perform radiation screening. NYC Department of Health will set up stations in the nearby school cafeteria to fulfill its mission. These stations include the Registration/information and Risk Management stations.

MRC members may assist Department of Health staff by fulfilling the following roles: set-up of DOHMH stations, fulfilling the Flow Monitor positions, CRC client (victims) and CRC safety-team members. This is your chance to help move NYC forward in its response to a radiological attack!

To register, go to:

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



AS YOU MAY KNOW, NYC MRC HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PROVIDING CLINICAL SUPPORT DURING THE LEGIONAIRE'S DISEASE OUTBREAK IN THE SOUTH BRONX. BELOW IS SOME INFORMATION ABOUT LEGIONELLA .

Legionnaires' Disease Frequently Asked Questions

What is Legionnaires' disease?

Legionnaires' disease (or *Legionellosis*) is a type of pneumonia. It is caused by a type of bacteria (*Legionella*) that grows in warm water.

Is the disease contagious?

No. Legionnaires' disease is not spread from person to person. People only get sick by breathing in water vapor containing the bacteria (for example, by inhaling contaminated mist from faucets, showers, whirlpools or cooling towers). People who are sick cannot make others sick.

Who is at risk?

Groups at high risk include people who are middle-aged or older—especially cigarette smokers—people with chronic lung disease or weakened immune systems and people who take medicines that weaken their immune systems (immunosuppressive drugs).

What are the symptoms of Legionnaires' Disease?

Symptoms resemble other types of pneumonia and can include fever, chills, muscle aches and cough. Some people may also have headaches, fatigue, loss of appetite, confusion or diarrhea.

What should I do if I think I have Legionnaires' disease?

If you have symptoms such as fever, chills and cough, call a doctor and get checked for pneumonia. If you have a medical condition that affects your breathing, like emphysema, or if you are a smoker, ask your doctor about testing for Legionnaires' disease.

What is the treatment for Legionnaires' disease?

The disease is treated with antibiotics. Most people get better with early treatment, although they may need to be hospitalized. In rare cases, people may get very sick or even die from complications of the disease.



NYC MRC Year in Review 2014—2015

30 Trainings on Various Topics

20 Public Health Events (BP screening, Rx Review, BMI in 3 languages)

3 Outreach/public events (Aids Walk, Climate Walk, Preparedness Kick Off)

4 NYC MRC Advisory Board meetings

4 Lenox Hill Mystery Patient Drills

2 Miscellaneous events: Region 2 MRC meeting, Grand Rounds at Beth Israel Hospital

3 REST Lunch and Learn

2 Symposia: NYC MRC, and NYC RRC

2 Field Trips to Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant

2 Rabies Vax Clinics

2 POD Core Team Meetings

1 Seasonal Flu POD

NYC MRC GRAND TOTAL:

Total Events: 75

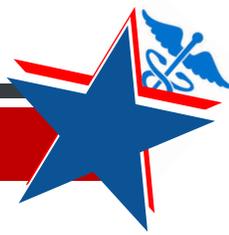
Total BP's Screenings: 746

Total Program Hours for all Events: 300.25

Total Attendees: 2,108



Upcoming Trainings and Events



Public Health Activities

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Our Lady of Refuge Church — Brooklyn

Location: 2020 Foster Avenue, Brooklyn

Dates & Time: Wednesdays from 10:00am—12:30pm, Aug.19, Sept. 2 &16

Language: Creole

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church—Brooklyn

Location: 526 59th Street, Brooklyn

Dates & Time: Sundays from 10:30am—12:30pm, Aug. 23, Sept. 27

Language: Spanish

Salvation Army — Brooklyn

Location: 520 50th St., Brooklyn

Dates & Time: Tuesdays from 9:00am—1:00pm, Sept. 8

Language: Creole

Feria De Salud Sobre La Diabetes — Bronx

Location: St. Mary's Park, 146 St., Bronx

Date & Time: Sat, Aug. 15, 11:00am—6:00pm

Languages: Spanish

FDNY Summer Block Party — Manhattan

Location: 248 W. 143 St., Manhattan

Date & Time: Sat, Aug. 15, 11:00am-4:00pm

Languages: Spanish and English

FDNY Summer Block Party — Brooklyn

Location: 107 Watkins St., Brooklyn

Date & Time: Sat, September 12, 11:00am-4:00pm

Languages: Spanish and English

To register, send an email to healthmrc@health.nyc.gov Please include your name, profession, date and location where you'd like



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New York City MRC Begins Community Pharmacy Outreach

Norberto Alberto has been a pharmacist for 24 years and a **NYC Medical Reserve Corps** (MRC) volunteer for ten years. The MRC is a national network of local volunteers dedicating to improving health, safety, and preparedness in their communities. The MRC network is comprised of almost 1,000 units and more than 200,000 volunteers.

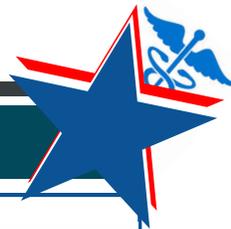
Alberto has served as the pharmacy representative on the NYC MRC's advisory board for the New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene since 2005. The advisory board suggests activities and programs based on the Department's health priorities. In 2015, the New York City (NYC) MRC unit decided to launch several public health initiatives. They identified the need for outreach to non-English speaking populations. The unit recognized that one way to reduce disease progression and cost of care was to teach patients, many of whom are immigrants, living in poverty, or elderly, to properly use their medications.

The NYC MRC partnered with **Coalicion Mexicana**, an organization that focuses on Latino outreach in the Bronx borough of the city, to host a pharmacy brown bag in the community. The MRC volunteers knew they had to reach their target population where they live, so they held an event at a neighborhood church on the weekend, when many people would already be there. Several other organizations participated in the event, offering blood pressure and diabetes screenings among other things.

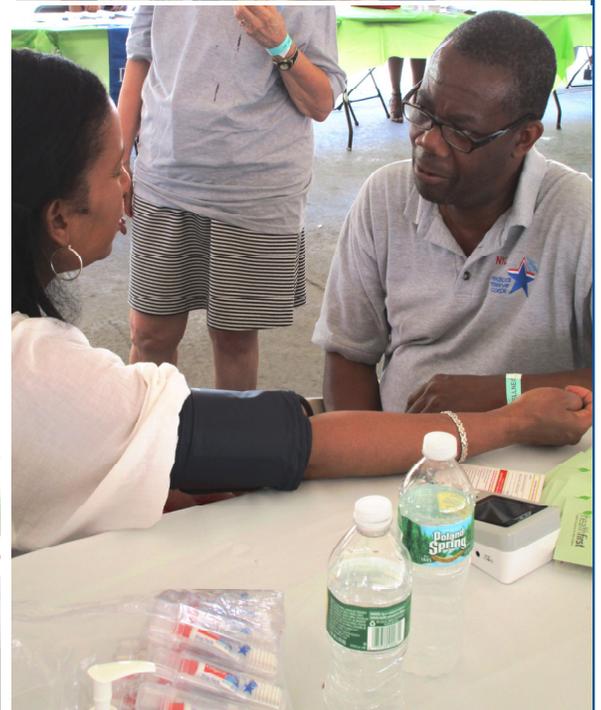
Three bilingual pharmacy volunteers set up a table in the church auditorium to explain the purpose and correct dosage of visitors' medicine. Many of the table's visitors were unaware how to manage their chronic conditions or when and how frequently they should take their medicine. All instructions were completed in Spanish. Some of the adults who visited their booth were illiterate and the volunteers had to come up with creative ways for them to recognize their medications. The first event was a huge success for the pharmacy volunteers of the NYC MRC.

The NYC MRC volunteers quickly saw the huge need for medication clarification in the community and planned their second event. Alberto acknowledged that funding would have a huge impact on the outreach. While the pharmacists volunteer their time, the group needs supplies like medication identification cards, laptops to provide drug information to patients, and shirts or signs that identify pharmacy volunteers. Security or police must also be present at the events because some patients may be prescribed narcotics. The unit will continue to hold these volunteer events, which could turn into a fully functional program with funding.

Alberto noted that these pharmacy brown bags might be a pilot event for the NYC MRC network. The NYC MRC hopes to inspire other units to work with pharmacies to reach out to underserved populations. The NYC MRC thinks a network of pharmacist volunteers would be a huge asset to the communities the MRC serves and plans to continue working with organizations in New York City to hold pharmacy brown bags.



MRC in Action



**NYC MRC at Brooklyn Borough Hall
and
Bed Stuy Health Fair**



MRC Orientation

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 explores 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, August 13th

Time: 6:00pm –8:00 pm

Location: 125 Worth Street, New York, NY 10013

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

New York City



Article about NYC MRC:

[Examining New York City Hospitals' Nonuse of Medical Volunteers in Disasters](#)

This article, published in the [Journal of Disaster Medicine and Public Health](#) was written by staff of the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene.

ABSTRACT

Objective To describe hospitals' perceptions of the New York City Medical Reserve Corps (NYC MRC); clarify administrative, legal, and clinical obstacles to the use of NYC MRC volunteers; and identify possible strategies to overcome these barriers.

Methods We administered an informational questionnaire to 33 NYC hospitals and conducted 2 facilitated discussion groups comprising 62 hospital representatives.

Results The most commonly reported hospital barriers to the use of MRC volunteers were concerns about the clinical competence of the volunteers, their lack of familiarity with medical technology used clinically in a hospital setting, and the potential for institutional liability.

Conclusions Although the NYC MRC has the potential to assist the health care system in the event of a disaster, NYC hospitals will need clarification of the clinical and legal issues involved in the use of MRC volunteers for patient care.

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