

New York City



# New York City Medical Reserve Corps



**February 2015**

42-09 28 St., Queens NY 11101

347-723-1696

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

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## **New Registration System for MRC Trainings**

Beginning in February, most MRC trainings and events will have one location for registration: the new MRC Self-Scheduling Application. This Web-based application is designed to allow NYC MRC members to choose their own work shifts during disasters and emergencies, which should make it easier for you to find opportunities that will match your availability and skills.

The application is simple to use: click on the link to the app, and enter your first name, last name, and the email address you used when registering for NYC MRC. The application interfaces with ServNY to verify your identity and profession, and shows you shifts that match your skills.

In order to give NYC MRC members an opportunity to become comfortable with this app, we will be using it for most trainings, events and exercises. The link will appear in all blurbs about events, and when you sign in, you will see all events available. For events with multiple sites, it will be easy for you to see where the need is, and what shifts are still available. **Some training events will have more than one listing in order to make more spaces available. You should choose just one to register.**

**We want your feedback!**

**As you use this app, please email us with any problems you may have. If you are having difficulty, please call Matt at 347-396-6248. We are very excited to have this new way to deploy MRC members during disasters, and are looking forward to your feedback!**

## **Why I Volunteer**



**Carol A. Butler, Ph.D.**

**How long have you been a member of NYC MRC?** Since 2010

**What is your profession?** I am a psychoanalyst with a private practice of individual and couples psychotherapy as well as mediation of divorces and family and business disputes. I am also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at NYU in the Department of Applied Psychology.

**What MRC activities have you participated lately?** I volunteered to help out with the Active Monitoring Hotline for recently arrived travelers and health care workers from the countries where Ebola is active. The monitoring group makes daily phone contact with people from the affected countries for the first 21 days after they arrive in the U.S. We record their temperature, ask about symptoms that may have developed, and provide any necessary support.

**Are you involved in any other volunteer activities?** I have been volunteering for the past 10 years in the live butterfly exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History. This work led to my writing a series of natural science books that began with a book about butterflies and moths, *Do Butterflies Bite?*

**Why do you volunteer for NYC MRC?** I was born in the Bronx and have lived all my life in New York City. I saw the World Trade Center towers burn and collapse from the corner of the block in Manhattan where I live and work. When I heard about MRC, I immediately wanted to participate so that I could help out in future emergencies.

# Upcoming Trainings and Events

## Pet Preparedness

When disaster strikes, the same rules that apply to people apply to pets: preparation makes all the difference. This training is designed to educate pet owners, and to assist them in the following aspects of emergency preparedness:

- 1) Preparing a disaster kit for their pets
- 2) Ensuring the health and safety of their pets
- 3) Developing an emergency plan for evacuations
- 4) Understanding the emergency shelter system and policies regarding animals
- 5) Training pets to cope with emergencies
- 6) Understanding pet behavior and dangers pets face during emergencies



**Date:** Thursday, February 5th

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

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

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



## HOPE 2015 THE NYC STREET SURVEY

### *Rescheduled for Monday, February 9th*

The NYC Department of Homeless Services will conduct its annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE). Thousands of volunteers are needed to canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces in an effort to estimate the number of people living unsheltered in NYC. Just one night of your time will help the Department of Homeless Services collect vital information for outreach teams attempting to help homeless people leave the streets for a better life.

The Department of Homeless Services will provide you with all the training necessary to conduct the survey on the night of HOPE, plus a quick online orientation upon registration.

### **Sign up to volunteer for HOPE 2015 today!**

**Date:** Monday, February 9th, 2015

**Time:** Approximately 10:30pm - 4:00am

**Location:** Varying

**Registration:** <https://a071-hope.nyc.gov/HOPE/register.aspx>

# Upcoming Trainings and Events

## All-Hazards Training for Mental Health Professionals

The MRC REST (Resiliency and Emotional Support Team) is comprised of a core group of qualified, trained mental health professionals who, when activated, can be rapidly mobilized to provide on-site disaster mental health services. The REST team provides disaster mental health services such as psychological first aid (PFA), information and referral and crisis counseling. These services might be provided on site within DOHMH and/or at City-designated response sites.

**This training prepares you to be part of the REST Team.**

**\*\*\*MRC Orientation is a pre-requisite. This training is for Mental Health professionals only.\*\*\***

**To qualify for this training, you must have:**

A NYS license or certificate (i.e.- SW, Psychologist, mental health counselor or therapist.

Master's degree and at least two years experience or 1 year experience with those

Experiencing trauma or disaster

Bachelor's degree and 2 years providing mental health services

**\*\*\*You only need to take this full-day course once\*\*\***

**Date:** Wednesday, February 18th

**Time:** 8:30am - 4:00pm

**Location:** NYC DOHMH 42-09 28th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101

**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

Please Join us for

## 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, and an expert on risk communications speak on answering hard questions when giving public health presentations.

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/>

## 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 18<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>



## On-Demand Continuing Education Webinars Available for Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Educators



AHRQ offers Web-based continuing education for nurses, nurse practitioners, case managers, staff educators and nurse practitioner faculty. Eligible professionals can view recorded webinars that highlight resources such as the National Guidelines Clearinghouse, the Electronic Preventive Services Selector and the Improving Patient Safety in Long-Term Care Facilities training modules. The webinars offer practical insights on how these resources can be integrated into education and practice.

To register, please visit: <http://ce.ahrq.gov/nurses/>

# 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 is responsible for working together to make on site decisions and manage POD operations. During a POD activation, PCT members may work long hours and odd times (12 hour shifts, overnight and/or weekends).

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. 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:

- 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/PODCoreTeamLeader>

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)



# Articles of Interest

## Over-the-counter sleep aids linked to dementia

A new study has found a significant link between high use of anticholinergic drugs - including popular non-prescription sleep aids and the antihistamine Benadryl (diphenhydramine) - and increased risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease in older people.

To read more, go to: <http://bit.ly/1y3mte2>

## Canadian has first H7N9 case in North America

Canadian officials have announced that a British Columbia resident who recently returned from China is recovering from an H7N9 avian flu infection, marking the first known case in North America.

To read more, go to: <http://bit.ly/1z3Axac>

## Heed the lesson from Disneyland measles outbreak

Prior to the introduction of a vaccine in 1967, nearly every American got the measles; but since 2000, it has effectively been eradicated in this country, with the only sources of exposure being foreign visitors or Americans who traveled and brought it back. The threat is growing, however, because not enough people are getting vaccinated and even for those who have gotten vaccinated, the overall trend is a problem for all of us.

To read more, go to: <http://cnn.it/1wpxC7e>

## Emergency Notification Drill Results



***The NYC MRC Emergency Notification Drill conducted on Jan. 26 had a 62% response rate.*** Thanks to all of you who participated despite the snowstorm. Those who sent emails to the MRC mailbox were not counted. Only those who followed the directions in the drill were counted as participants.

## 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!**

