

New York City



# New York City Medical Reserve Corps



**September 2016**

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## Why I Volunteer



**Ionie Skyers-Gilchrist, RN, NP**

**How long have you been a member of NYC MRC?** 9 years (since 2007)

**What is your profession?** NP and RN

**What MRC activities have you participated in lately?** Health fairs- FDNY Block Party in Brownsville and St. Francis in downtown Brooklyn., Trainings-Ebola, PECO Presentation; Volunteer Leaders

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

I became a NYC MRC volunteer in 2007 because I felt I could make a difference to my community especially after 911. Volunteering with MRC has given me opportunities to work with people from different backgrounds to build camaraderie and teamwork as we work toward a common goal. As a volunteer with MRC I have discovered hidden talents and skills that have changed my opinion about my self-worth and provide mental and physical rewards. MRC has given me the confidence to move out of my comfort zone to become a Volunteer Leader. Over the years I have benefited from numerous trainings offered by MRC that have helped me understand the important role I play as a MRC volunteer in being prepared to help my community in the event of a disaster. Whether it's volunteering to be a victim in a training drill by the FDNY or conducting blood pressure screening at health fairs in poor underserved communities in Brooklyn. I am proud to be a member of NYC MRC.

## NYC MRC Zika Response!

**Please be advised: NYC MRC will be distributing Zika-related materials at all Public Health Events until further notice.**



## September Emergency Notification Drill

The purpose of conducting Quarterly Emergency Notification Drills is:

1. To test the system
2. To ensure that we have correct contact information for volunteers
3. To ensure that volunteers know how to answer

The September drill will be conducted **the week of September 12th.**

It is vitally important that you take a minute to answer the call/email. You only have to respond on one device. You cannot respond to a voicemail—you must answer a live call, or answer the email. The call will come from a 518 area code.

This notification drill is a metric that we have to report on to the CDC.

Thank you for making the upcoming drill a success!

## Fall Health Fairs

Join NYC MRC at a summer health fair! Health fairs occur throughout the five boroughs, and bring health and wellness screenings and education to New Yorkers in a fun and festive atmosphere. *Spanish speakers needed for all fairs!*

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

Thursday, Sept. 8 12:00—4:00

**Kings County Hospital Staff Preparedness Fair**  
451 Clarkson Ave. Brooklyn

Saturday, Sept. 10 11:00—5:00pm

**See U through Foundation Health Fair**  
470 East 146 St., Bronx

Sunday, Sept. 11 10—5:00pm

**Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church Fair**  
101 W. 123 St. , Manhattan

Saturday, Sept. 24th 12:00—5:00 pm

**Staten Island Family Preparedness Fair**  
Staten Island Children's Museum, 1000 Richmond Terrace, SI

Saturday, Sept. 25th 9:00—5:00 pm

**Feria de Salud & Consular Health Fair**  
W. 175 St. (betw. Wadsworth & St. Nicholas Ave. )

Thursday, Sept. 25th 3:00-5:00 pm

**Harlem RBI Fair**

141 East 111 Street, Between Lexington and Park



## Upcoming Public Health Events

In collaboration with our community partners, NYC MRC continues to provide blood pressure screenings and Zika information at soup kitchens, food pantries, and churches throughout the city. We look forward to seeing you at one of these recurring events!

*We have indicated what language is primarily spoken at each site, but English speakers are welcome as well.*

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

**Salvation Army, 520 50th Street, Brooklyn**

Tuesday, September 20 — 11:00 am—1:00pm

**Language:** Spanish, Chinese

**Coney Island Lighthouse Mission**

2114 Mermaid Ave., Brooklyn

Thursday, September 22nd — 10:30 am—12:30 pm

**Languages:** Spanish, Chinese

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 526 59th St, Brooklyn**

Sunday, September 25th — 10:30 am—1:30 pm

**Language:** Spanish

**Our Lady of Solace, 2866 West 17th St, Brooklyn**

Sunday, Oct. 2nd— 10:00 am—1:00 pm

**Language:** Spanish



# Trainings

## Psychological First Aid

Learn about the mental health implications of disasters for yourself and others, normal and abnormal stress reactions and self-care in this training designed for non mental health professionals. This training will be offered by Adela Rodriguez, LMSW, a member of the DOHMH Disaster Mental Health team.

**Date:** Thursday, September 14

**Time:** 6:00 pm —8:00pm (registration and light dinner at 5:30)

**Location:** CUNY School of Law

2 Court Square, Room 3/302 Long Island City, Queens

**To RSVP go to:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>



## NYC MRC Orientation

This training is an introduction to the NYC MRC program. It is a great overview for both new members and longtime members, and is the prerequisite for our most popular trainings. NYC MRC Orientation explores how NYC 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:** Tuesday, September 20

**Time:** 6:00 pm — 8:00 pm

Registration & light supper at 5:30 pm

**Location:** 125 Worth St, 3rd Floor Boardroom, Manhattan

**To RSVP go to:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>

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## Disabilities and Functional Needs Training

Our mandate as MRC members is to serve all New Yorkers. Learn more about providing services to people with disabilities and functional needs. This training is being presented by our colleagues at the NYC Emergency Management.

**Date:** Thursday, October 6

**Time:** 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Registration and light supper at 5:30

**Location:** NYCEM, 165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn

**To RSVP go to:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>

NYCEM is accessible. If you require a reasonable accommodation or other auxiliary aids and/or services please contact Eli Fresquez at 718-422-8947 TTY: 718-422-4660, Video Relay Service: 212-639-9675 or email at: [efresquez@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:efresquez@oem.nyc.gov) seven (7) days before this event.



## Save the Date: Radiation training

Our Colleague, Mark Maiello, PhD, will offer a training on Radiation on

Thursday, October 27th. Check the October newsletter for the specific location and topic.



## Meet the NY State Commissioner of Health

**Dr. Howard Zucker, MD, JD, the NY State Commissioner of Health**, was instrumental in the development of the Medical Reserve Corps while he was the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health at HHS.

Dr. Zucker is coming to NYC to meet with NYC MRC members to discuss with the volunteers the role of MRC and what they can do, how they can work with DOH, and what they are currently doing.

This is an opportunity for NYC MRC members to have a conversation with a leading public health official, and advocate for NYC MRC. Please make time in your busy schedule to attend this important event.

**Date:** Thursday, September 29th

**Time:** 6:00 pm —7:30 pm  
(registration and light supper at 5:30)

**Location:** 90 Church Street, 4th Floor Conference Room,  
Manhattan

**To RSVP go to:** <https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/MRCSelfServe/>



## Introducing: NYC MRC Volunteer Leaders!

This month NYC MRC launches our **Volunteer Leader Program**, with seven of our volunteers stepping up to help lead our public health initiatives. Daniella Rin Hover, Mark Lasker, Angeli Medina, Simona Iliescu, Ionie Skyers-Gilchrist, Karen Abbinante and Melissa Shah will represent NYC MRC at our current public health sites, bringing the equipment and teaching materials, sign in sheets, and blood pressure metric forms. They will organize the site, liaise with the representatives of the site and support the volunteers. This program is very important to the growth of MRC. These wonderful leaders will allow MRC to expand our reach to help other communities.

**Bravo to the Leaders!**

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer leader, please call Matt at:  
917-494-1368



# NYC MRC in Action



**CHE Harlem**



**FDNY Block Party Springfield Gardens**



**FDNY Morris Ave, Bronx**



**Mama Tingo Health Fair**



## MRC Serves Video Challenge!

**The Medical Reserve Corps Program is excited to launch the MRC Serves! Video Challenge.**

Today there are nearly 200,000 volunteers — in almost 1,000 MRC units nationwide — who selflessly share their skills, training, and time to support their local communities in need. From being among the first to respond in natural disasters; to organizing blood drives and vaccination clinics; to leading preparedness training exercises and engaging youth in public health, your commitment to service inspires us. And we want to hear your story!

MRC volunteers are invited to create and submit a short 60 -- 90 second video that answers one of the following three questions.

1. Why do I / we volunteer with the MRC?
2. How does the MRC make my community healthier?
3. How does the MRC make my community more prepared and resilient?

A winner from each category will be invited to attend the 2017 Preparedness Summit where they will be recognized by MRC Program leadership and have their travel, lodging, and expenses covered.

**Entries are due no later than September 11, 2016.** Full challenge details, including video guidelines and submission instructions, can be found at:

<http://www.challenge.gov/challenge/mrc—serves/>

If you have questions, please contact us at [MRCcontact@hhs.gov](mailto:MRCcontact@hhs.gov)



## Articles of Interest

**Sheri Fink, "Whose lives should be saved ? To Help Shape Policy. Researchers in Maryland ask the Public" NYT, Aug. 22, 2016**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/22/us/whose-lives-should-be-saved-to-help-shape-policy-researchers-in-maryland-ask-the-public.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/22/us/whose-lives-should-be-saved-to-help-shape-policy-researchers-in-maryland-ask-the-public.html?_r=0)

**Marc Santora, "New York Health City Wages War on the Zika Virus" August 22,2016.**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/22/nyregion/new-york-city-zika-virus.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/22/nyregion/new-york-city-zika-virus.html?_r=0)

# Attention Pharmacists!



A message from the New York City Health Department to community pharmacists in New York City!

As a community pharmacist, you are among the most accessible and trusted healthcare professionals in your community. We at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) recognize that you serve a critical role not only providing medications but also important health information to residents of your communities on a daily basis.

We are very interested in working with community pharmacists to support them in preparing for and recovering from disasters and other emergencies. However, we currently have no mechanism to communicate effectively with the more than 2000 independent community pharmacies in NYC.

To address this gap, NYC DOHMH created the Public Health Emergency Response Network Pharmacy Program (PHERN PP), a simple application that allows NYC pharmacies to quickly and easily “register” and provide pharmacy contact and other service information. This information will assist us in engaging in a productive, reciprocal exchange of information that is essential for effective emergency preparedness and response, and will enable us to better support you and your important work ensuring the health and well-being of all New Yorkers.

The registration process is simple and should only take 5 minutes.

Go to <http://on.nyc.gov/phern> and scroll down to select the PHERN Pharmacy Program. Questions about the program can be directed to Eric Medina, PHERN PP Coordinator, at [PHERNPP@health.nyc.gov](mailto:PHERNPP@health.nyc.gov).