



Boston Health Notes

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& Mayor Thomas M. Menino*

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Boston Medical Reserve Corps: Be One Of Boston's Everyday Heroes

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September is National Preparedness Month, an opportunity to highlight the importance of being prepared so that your family and community remain safe in the case of an emergency. However, regardless of what month it is, every household should take steps to be prepared, just as the Boston Medical Reserve Corps (Boston MRC) is charged with preparing the entire city.

What is the Boston MRC?

The Boston MRC is a group of volunteers who are ready to respond should there be a public health emergency here in Boston. In an emergency, volunteers perform a wide range of tasks aimed at keeping the city safe and healthy. For example, volunteers may be called upon to dispense medication to city residents. Volunteers also provide critical support at planned events like the city's Fourth of July celebration and the Boston Marathon.

Who volunteers for the Boston MRC?

Many of us ask, "Is there something small I can do to make a big difference for my community?" The answer is yes. Join the Boston Medical Reserve Corps and have a positive impact on your community. Our volunteers are everyday people who live and work in the city of Boston. You don't need a medical background to volunteer with the Boston MRC. Everyone has an important skill to offer, and we're always looking for:

- Multilingual volunteers
- Community leaders
- Those experienced with special needs populations
- Doctors, nurses, and other health professionals
- Everyday citizens with a desire to help Boston during an emergency

Do I need special training to volunteer?

Once you sign up online at www.bostonmrc.org, all of the training for the MRC is offered for free. You will have the opportunity to complete an orientation either online or in person. After that, if you're interested in taking on a larger role, free leadership level training is offered and volunteers help with activation simulations, drills, and other special events.

What kind of time commitment is involved with volunteering?

Joining the Boston Medical Reserve Corps takes just 10 minutes online. The only other mandatory commitment is an hour long volunteer orientation, though Boston MRC volunteers could be called at any time for an emergency. Volunteers will be activated through a telephone alert system once it is safe to respond.

I want to help -sign me up!

Everyday heroes like you help keep Boston safe and prepared. Join the Boston MRC. The time commitment is small, the training is free, and joining is easy.

- 1. Submit a volunteer application at www.bostonmrc.org**
- 2. Complete our orientation** either online or in person
- 3. You're ready to go.** In an emergency you'll be called to help

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SIGN UP TODAY at www.BostonMRC.org