



# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Resources for Medical Reserve Corps Units

Information and resources included in this document are current as of October 2021. For [the most up-to-date situation summary and guidance related to COVID-19](#), visit [www.cdc.gov/covid19](http://www.cdc.gov/covid19).

## Overview

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that has been detected in locations internationally, including in the United States. The virus that causes COVID-19 can spread from person to person and can cause mild to severe illness. The federal government has worked closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners, to respond to this public health emergency.<sup>1</sup>

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units, many of which are sponsored by local health departments, are important public health preparedness and response assets and can help bolster their local community's emergency response infrastructure by providing supplemental personnel when needed.<sup>2</sup> This document is intended to provide MRC units with COVID-19 resources, guidance, related training, and example response roles for MRC volunteers.

## COVID-19 Resources

**HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** has published a [dedicated website related to COVID-19](#), which is available at [www.cdc.gov/covid19](http://www.cdc.gov/covid19). The site includes timely, up-to-date situational awareness information, guidance, and resources for public health and healthcare communities, as well as the general public. Below are examples of topics and guidance covered on the site; new and updated information is frequently posted.

- What You Should Know – how it spreads, how to protect yourself, what to do if you are sick
- Situation Updates – situation summary, risk assessment, CDC response
- Information for Specific Audiences – guidance for health professionals, healthcare facilities, health departments, first responders, laboratories, businesses, schools, retirement communities (among others)
- Communication Resources – print resources, videos, public service announcements

**HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (ASPR TRACIE)** has also published a [COVID-19 webpage](#). There you will find links to:

- Planning Resources (e.g., alternate care sites, crisis standards of care)
- Federal COVID-19 Websites
- Select Technical Assistance Requests (e.g., drive-through testing, point of distribution (POD) operations)
- ASPR TRACIE-Developed Infectious Disease Resources (e.g., self-care modules for healthcare providers)
- Select Comprehensive Topic Collections related to pandemic planning and response

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Situation Summary](#)

<sup>2</sup> The Medical Reserve Corps Program is the national office of the MRC and is housed within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. The program started as an HHS demonstration project in 2002. In 2006, Congress passed the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA), which formally established the MRC “to provide for an adequate supply of volunteers in the case of a Federal, State, local, or tribal public health emergency”



MRC TRAIN, part of the larger [TRAIN Learning Network](#), has posted a series of trainings available to unit leaders and volunteers related to COVID-19. This includes training from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and others.

## Example MRC Response Roles

More than 500 MRC units in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands have been engaged in COVID-19 response activities. MRC volunteers are supporting a myriad of response roles and tasks depending on local community need. While response activities vary, below are common COVID-19 MRC missions:

- [Testing support](#) – assisting with COVID-19 testing at clinics and drive-through sites – roles ranging from appointment set-up, patient registration, traffic control, data entry, personal protective equipment (PPE) donning and doffing, nasopharyngeal swab administration, and test result follow-up
- [Epidemiology and surveillance support](#) – assisting health departments with positive case investigations, contact tracing, and patient monitoring of those in isolation/quarantine (often done remotely via phone)
- [Medical surge](#) – providing medical surge personnel to facilities, including (but not limited to), hospitals, long-term care facilities, congregate housing, alternate care sites, federal medical stations, and emergency isolation shelters for homeless and vulnerable populations
- [Mass vaccination](#) – assisting with all aspects of point of distribution (POD) operations, including patient screening, vaccine administration, monitoring for adverse reactions, exit counseling, behavioral health support, and site operations/administrative support (e.g., vaccine appointment set-up, data entry, traffic control)
- [Behavioral health](#) – providing behavioral health support for staff and community members at call centers, homeless shelters, health departments, first responder agencies, long-term care facilities, and hospitals
- Community screening – performing health screenings and temperature checks of staff and visitors at hospitals, health departments, emergency operations centers, municipal buildings, correctional facilities, and [homeless shelters](#)
- Call center operations – assisting health departments and community call centers with fielding and triaging phone calls and email inquiries from the general public and healthcare providers, including providing general COVID-19 information and guidance, performing initial health screenings, and providing testing information
- Community outreach – assisting school systems, local community food banks, Meals on Wheels programs, senior centers, and local Area Agencies on Aging with packaging and food delivery/distribution; making well check calls to older community members and those on special needs registries; assisting with grocery and prescription medication pick-up and delivery; and making cloth masks for community members
- Logistics support – inventorying, assembling, and distributing PPE; providing stockpile warehouse support; facilitating test specimen pick-up and delivery to laboratories; delivering and setting up mobile field hospitals, mobile field offices, and drive-through tents
- Community education – providing health education and raising awareness of prevention and mitigation measures for both general population and specific community groups through public service announcements, flyer distribution, door hangers, social media, outreach calls, etc.
- Training – assisting with fit testing and PPE donning and doffing training for volunteers and healthcare personnel



## Appendix A – Mission-Specific Resources: Epidemiology and Surveillance Support, Contact Tracing

**Note:** Non-Federal government tools and resources listed below are provided for informational purposes only and are not intended to indicate endorsement. MRC units should evaluate and select tools that best meet their needs and those of their communities. If applicable, MRC units are also encouraged to utilize local and state-specific resources.

- [COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training Guidance and Resources](#) – this page contains training resources, communications tools, and guidance documents
- [Epi Info™](#) is a public domain suite. Designed for the global community of public health practitioners and researchers, it provides tools that create data entry forms, collect data, and perform epidemiologic data analysis and visualization
- [MRC TRAIN \(course #1091008\)](#) has posted a generalized contact tracing training, created and shared by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Johns Hopkins University: [COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training](#)
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Coronavirus Resources for Local Health – this [COVID-19 Data Lab](#) is an interactive tool that allows users to identify COVID-19 data points by state and county



## Appendix B – Mission-Specific Resources: COVID-19 Testing Support

**Note:** Non-Federal government tools and resources listed below are provided for informational purposes only and are not intended to indicate endorsement. MRC units should evaluate and select tools that best meet their needs and those of their communities. If applicable, MRC units are also encouraged to utilize local and state-specific resources.

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Guidance for Health Departments about COVID-19 Testing in the Community](#)
  - [Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens](#)
  - [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19](#)
  - [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Questions and Answers](#)
  - [Laboratory Capacity](#)
- ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection: [COVID-19 Drive-Through Testing/Community Screening Resources](#)
- ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Responses:
  - [COVID-19 Testing Process Overview](#)
  - [Drive-Through Testing for Infectious Disease](#)
- National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC): [COVID-19 Laboratory Specimen Collection: Nasopharyngeal Swab Training Video](#)



## Appendix C – Mission-Specific Resources: Medical Surge Support

**Note:** Non-Federal government tools and resources listed below are provided for informational purposes only and are not intended to indicate endorsement. MRC units should evaluate and select tools that best meet their needs and those of their communities. If applicable, MRC units are also encouraged to utilize local and state-specific resources.

### Long-Term Care Facility Support

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Resources for Long-Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes](#) – includes key strategies for long-term care facility planning, infection prevention and control, and testing
- CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Webinar: [COVID-19 Update and Information for Long-Term Care Facilities](#)
- [ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection: COVID-19 Long-Term Care Resources](#)
- The [American Health Care Association](#) – this page provides guidance and resources for long-term care providers, residents and patients, and families/friends

### Homeless Shelter, Isolation/Quarantine Facility, and Recovery Center Support

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Resources to Support People Experiencing Homelessness](#) – includes information on vaccination for people experiencing homelessness and more
  - [Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers](#)
  - [Interim Guidance on People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness](#)
  - [FAQs for Homeless Shelters](#)
- [U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness](#) – includes guidance, webinars, and information on a range of topics, including isolation and quarantine facilities
- [ASPR TRACIE Population-Specific Resources: People Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [National Health Care for the Homeless Council COVID-19 Resources](#)





## Appendix D – Mission-Specific Resources: COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Efforts

**Note:** Non-Federal government tools and resources listed below are provided for informational purposes only and are not intended to indicate endorsement. MRC units should evaluate and select tools that best meet their needs and those of their communities. If applicable, MRC units are also encouraged to utilize local and state-specific resources.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Vaccination Resources – includes resources for the general public as well as healthcare and public health professionals
  - [Vaccine Information for the General Public](#) – key things to know, what to expect, benefits of vaccination, different COVID-19 vaccines, FAQs, and more
  - [Vaccine Information for Healthcare Professionals](#) – clinical resources for each COVID-19 vaccine, COVID-19 vaccination planning and operational guidance, vaccine provider requirements and support, information on mRNA vaccines, and more
  - [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdictional Operations](#) – serves as an interim playbook for state, territorial, and local public health programs and their partners on how to plan and operationalize a vaccination response to COVID-19 within their jurisdictions. The document's sections cover specific areas of COVID-19 vaccination program planning and implementation and provide key guidance documents and links to resources to assist those efforts
  - [Guidance for Planning Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary, or Off-site Locations](#)
    - [Checklist of Best Practices](#)
    - [Supply Checklist](#)
- ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection
  - [Mass Distribution and Dispensing of Medical Countermeasures](#)
  - [COVID-19 Vaccine Resources](#)
- Medical Reserve Corps Point of Distribution (POD) Mission Sets:
  - Yates County MRC (NY): [MRC POD Support](#)
  - Johnson County (IA): [COVID-19 Drive-Through Vaccination POD](#)
- Training Resources:
  - [CDC: COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programs and Reference Materials for Healthcare Professionals](#)
  - [MRC TRAIN: COVID-19 Vaccination Training Plan](#)



## Appendix E – Mission-Specific Resources: Behavioral Health Support

**Note:** Non-Federal government tools and resources listed below are provided for informational purposes only and are not intended to indicate endorsement. MRC units should evaluate and select tools that best meet their needs and those of their communities. If applicable, MRC units are also encouraged to utilize local and state-specific resources.

- [ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection: COVID-19 Behavioral Health Resources](#)
- University of Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Public Health: Psychological First Aid Training Videos
  - Psychological First Aid Part 1: [Introduction to Psychological First Aid](#)
  - Psychological First Aid Part 2: [The Impact of Trauma](#)
  - Psychological First Aid Part 3: [Principles of Psychological First Aid](#)
  - Psychological First Aid Parts 4 & 5: [Techniques and the "Dos" and "Don'ts" of PFA](#)
  - Psychological First Aid Part 6: [Responder Self Care](#)
- University of Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Public Health: [First Responder Toolkit App](#) – aids those deployed to emergency response events in maintaining their own physical, emotional, and social well-being
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [COVID-19 Stress & Coping Resources](#)
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR): [COVID-19 Mental and Behavioral Health Resources](#)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): [Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health: Tips for Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation During an Infectious Disease Outbreak](#)
- FEMA's Federal Healthcare Resilience Task Force: [Mitigate Absenteeism by Protecting Healthcare Workers' Psychological Health and Well-being during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [SAMHSA: Disaster Distress Helpline](#)
- [MRC TRAIN: Skills for Psychological Recovery](#) (The National Child Traumatic Stress Network)