

## Serve your community, volunteer with the Florida Medical Reserve Corps

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You can be part of an important group of volunteers who supplement local emergency and public health resources. The Florida Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is made up of medical and non-medical volunteers who are pre-identified, trained, credentialed, prepared, and ready to respond when needed. The Florida Medical Reserve Corps promotes, strengthens, and expands local volunteer services enabling citizens to contribute to the safety and well-being of their communities.

Emergency response starts at the local level. Before outside assistance is brought in, local communities work to meet the need for staffing emergency events or disasters.

Florida's newly licensed professionals can become an essential part of a local MRC unit. Those who are aspiring medical professionals (students) can provide essential administrative support and gain hands on volunteer experience while serving their local community.

The MRC is a partner with Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security. The MRC is sponsored by the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General and supported in Florida by the Florida Department of Health.

Volunteers are trained and ready to support community disaster response efforts during public health emergencies. In addition to emergency response, the MRC collaborates with the community to meet public health needs. Local MRC units contribute in a variety of ways such as pandemic influenza outreach and planning, personal and family preparedness education, vaccine administration, and public health related events.

Volunteers include medical professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacist, dentists, veterinarians, and non-medical community members who fill vital support positions as interpreters, office workers, legal advisors, religious leaders and more. Over 7,630 volunteers currently participate in Florida's 32 units. Volunteers are needed in every community.

The current hurricane season and threats, rumors and media coverage of the H1N1 Swine Flu emphasizes the critical need for communities to be prepared. MRC nurse volunteers in Collier and Sarasota counties staffed H1N1 Swine Flu phone lines and assisted staff in assessing persons who thought they might be sick, other MRC Units were also actively involved in the H1N1 Swine Flu response.

To volunteer, go to [www.SERVFL.com](http://www.SERVFL.com). To find out more about the Florida Medical Reserve Corps and how you can become involved go to [www.floridamrc.com](http://www.floridamrc.com) or call (850) 245-4746.

[See picture next page]

Miami Dade College students participating in a H1N1 vaccination campaign at their college.

