

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

MODULE 2: MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC)

PURPOSE

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is an important part of the Citizen Corps. The program reports directly to Surgeon General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The mission of the MRC is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other volunteers. Volunteer MRC units supplement existing emergency and public health resources during local emergencies and other times of community need.

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was founded after President Bush challenged all Americans to volunteer in support of their community in his 2002 State of the Union address. HOSA has established a partnership with the MRC which will result in the doubling of the volunteer force of the Medical Reserve Unit.

The Medical Reserve Corps provides partnership opportunities that allow HOSA members to take an active role in contributing to their schools and communities in emergency preparedness. The MRC is dedicated to establishing teams of local volunteer medical and public health professionals to contribute their skills and expertise throughout the year as well as during times of community need.

This partnership will also reinforce the value of HOSA chapter and member involvement in emergency preparedness and addressing the priority issues of the Office of the United States Surgeon General.

For more information about the Medical Reserve Corps, visit the MRC website at <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/HomePage>

OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the value of partnering with a local MRC unit.
2. Review an existing HOSA – MRC partnership.
3. Analyze the role of a HOSA chapter in partnership with a local MRC unit.
4. Introduce HOSA to a local MRC director.

CONTENT

HOSA has developed a partnership with the Medical Reserve Corps. The HOSA, Inc. Board of Directors supports the partnership with the Medical Reserve Corps to take full advantage of the following opportunities:

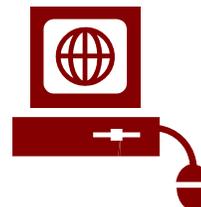
1. **Provide HOSA members with opportunities to gain experience** (and training) as a volunteer member of the Medical Reserve Corps by learning local emergency and health procedures, trauma response techniques, use of specialized equipment and other methods to enhance their effectiveness as a volunteer.
2. **Demonstrate HOSA's value** as a pool of future health care professionals and volunteers for the Medical Reserve Corps as well as a career in the Public Health Service.
3. **Encourage the involvement of HOSA members to fill the gaps** in local emergency response plans and to improve the response capabilities of the local Medical Reserve Corps.
4. **Involve HOSA chapters and members in general public health initiatives** such as flu vaccination clinics and diabetes detection programs.
5. **Support the Surgeon General's goal** to improve health literacy by increasing disease prevention and eliminating health disparities, in addition to public health preparedness.

These opportunities can be shared with all health science students in an effort to prepared them to successfully pursue a career in health care AND become responsible citizens in the community.

MRC Website Resources

The MRC website contains a wealth of information, including a resource page at <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/resources.asp>. The resource page includes a search function, browse capability, and links to resources, including a PowerPoint presentation, MRC 101.

Search Resources



Browse by Subcategory A - Z

A [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) # [See All](#)

Browse by Category	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Branding• Credentialing• Emergency Preparedness and Response• Liability• Local Integration and Partnerships• MRC Articles• NACCHO• National Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Newsletters• Organizational Structure• Public Health Initiatives• Regional Conferences• Regional Resources• Sustainability• Training• Volunteer Relations• Work Groups

Highlighted Resources

- ▶ [MRC 101](#)
- ▶ [MRC Calendar](#)
- ▶ [MRC Acronyms](#)
- ▶ [MRC Program Brochure](#)
- ▶ [MRC Video Gallery](#)
- ▶ [MRC Photo Gallery](#)
- ▶ [Health Related Public Service Announcements](#)
- ▶ [MRC-TRAIN and Core Competency Resources](#)
 - ▶ [Technical Assistance Series](#)
- ▶ [Pandemic Flu Planning Guidance for MRC Units](#)

Core Competencies for Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers



Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) members come from various backgrounds and have varying credentials, capabilities, and professional experience. They include doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and more. They also include other community volunteers who perform vital support positions.

There are no standard training requirements for MRC members. MRCs consider their own unique needs in order to best prepare their members to function effectively.

The following core competencies are encouraged so that all active members reach a desired level of proficiency.

1. Describe the procedure and steps necessary to protect the health, safety, and overall well-being of themselves, their families, the team, and the community.
2. Document that they have an existing personal and family preparedness plan.
3. Describe the chain of command (e.g., Emergency Management System, Incident Command System, National Incident Management System), MRC integration, and its application to a given incident.
4. Describe the local MRC unit's role in public health and/or emergency response and its application to a given incident.
5. Describe their communication role(s) and processes with response partners, media, general public, and others.
6. Describe an event's impact on their mental health, responders and others.
7. Demonstrate their ability to follow procedures for assignment, activation, reporting, and deactivation.
8. Identify limits to own skills, knowledge, and abilities as they pertain to the MRC.

Partnership Opportunities – HOSA and MRC

HOSA involvement presents an excellent opportunity for Health Science students to engage with the local MRC. This is service-learning at its finest, and provides an opportunity to give back to the community while networking with healthcare professionals.



MRC Recruitment

- HOSA members can join the local MRC as non-medical volunteers and transition to medical volunteers as they complete their health care education.
- HOSA members can invite their parents to join the local MRC.
- HOSA members can staff recruitment booths at malls and community functions, handing out brochures, flyers and applications.

Emergency Shelters

- HOSA members can help staff evacuation and special needs shelters.
- HOSA members can hold food drives and other activities to help stock emergency shelters.

Community Flu Clinics and Health Fairs

- HOSA members can distribute information flyers throughout the community.
- HOSA members can help with mailings and registration.
- HOSA members can take blood pressures at the Health Fair.
- HOSA members can create Health Fair displays.

Health Literacy

- HOSA members can provide health information to school and community groups.
- HOSA members can conduct community awareness projects related to specific health issues.

Disaster Drills

- HOSA members can act as victims in county disaster drill and simulations.
- HOSA members can participate in emergency response training.

HOSA State Conference Involvement

- The MRC could offer a bio-readiness training session for HOSA members during the state conference.
- The MRC could have a booth/table at the conference to talk with interested students and advisors.
- The MRC could distribute judge invitations to all their members.
- The MRC could sponsor the HOSA events related to emergency preparedness.

Talking Points – Introducing HOSA to the MRC Director

These talking points can be used when introducing HOSA to a member of the local MRC, or adapted for use by the health science instructor to fit his/her program needs.

1. **Read about the MRC before making a call.**
 - a. Visit the MRC website at <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/HomePage>. The site includes everything you need to know about the national initiative and MRC goals.
 - b. The MRC website will provide a link to MRC chapters that serve your state and local community. Visit that site to determine the status of your local MRC and for contact information.

2. **Call and make an appointment with the MRC Director.**
 - a. Call and introduce yourself. “I am _____ with HOSA, an organization of high school and college students who are planning to pursue a health care career. Our National organization is working with the Medical Reserve Corps office in Washington D.C. We would like to create a partnership with our local MRC unit here in _____. Is there a date and time that we could meet to talk about how HOSA could support your efforts?”
 - b. Confirm your meeting via e-mail, and include a link to <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Spotlights/Organization/2006/Septem> which is the location on the MRC website that addresses the HOSA partnership, and a link to HOSA’s website at www.hosa.org.

3. **Meet with your MRC Director.**
 - a. It is recommended that the visit include a chapter or state advisor and at least one student officer.
 - b. Begin the meeting by telling the HOSA story. (Goals and purposes of our organization.) This is something that a HOSA officer could prepare ahead of time that answers the question “What is HOSA?” and provides a summary of HOSA’s mission and activities. This explanation should take 2-4 minutes and should be delivered in an extemporaneous and confident manner.
 - c. Ask about the MRC unit. Find out as much as you can about the location, sponsorship, and specific goals of the MRC unit.
 - d. Talk about MRC activities in which HOSA could participate. Use your list of “Partnership Opportunities – HOSA and MRC” as a springboard.
 - e. Take notes with specific dates and times of MRC activities that could involve HOSA members.
 - f. Explain that you will develop a draft partnership agreement and follow up within the week.

- 4. Draw up a draft partnership agreement.**
 - a. The draft agreement should be written and should include at least one MRC activity in which HOSA could get involved. Include as many specifics as possible. The agreement does not need to be formal and elaborate, but it does need to be specific.
 - b. Start simple. It is fine to plan one activity and see it through to completion before making additional plans.

- 5. Submit a HOSA-MRC Partnership Report Form**
 - a. The form lets your state advisor and National HOSA know what is happening at the local level, and gives us tracking data to forward to the Surgeon General's office.

- 6. Notify local school administrators and media of the partnership**
 - a. Once the partnership is established, be sure to notify local school administrators of HOSA's involvement with the MRC.
 - b. This is also an excellent opportunity to contact TV and newspaper outlets to let them know about the partnership and the value of HOSA in contributing the future of healthcare as well as the common good.

- 7. Add MRC activities to the HOSA Plan-of-Work**
 - a. As the partnership progresses and builds, add HOSA activities with and in support of the MRC to the HOSA Chapter Plan-of-Work.
 - b. States should also consider ways to recognize chapter involvement with the MRC.

ASSIGNMENTS – MODULE 2

1. Find your closest MRC unit. You can do a search by zipcode or state at <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/FindMRC.asp>

Unit Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

A later assignment will include introducing Health Science Education and HOSA to the MRC Director. Before you do that, the additional assignments in this module will prepare you for meeting with the MRC.

2. Web resources. Browse the MRC website, paying particular attention to the resource page at <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/resources.asp>

For this assignment, you can either show the PowerPoint to a class and have students respond to the questions in Attachment 2-1, or you can review the PowerPoint, MRC 101 on the MRC resource page and answer the questions in Attachment 2-1.

Include either your response sheet in your notebook OR select five (5) student response sheets and include them in your notebook.

3. Review the Partnership Opportunities: HOSA and MRC section in this module, and then use the rating form in Attachment 2-2 to evaluate the options.
4. Pima County Health Department Student MRC. Read the brochure and student handbook from the Pima County Health Department Student Medical Reserve Corps, and complete the review summary in Attachment 2-3. The handbook and brochure are available in PDF format on the same website as HOSA 105, or they can be downloaded from the Pima County Health Department website.

Handbook

http://www.pimahealth.org/citizencorps/Student_MRC_Handbook.pdf

Brochure

<http://www.schosa.org/Resources/StudentMRCBrochure-1.pdf>

5. Introduce HOSA to the local MRC Director. HOSA has prepared a detailed list of steps that can be used when introducing HOSA to your local MRC. Using the document “Talking Points – Introducing HOSA to the MRC Director” follow the recommended steps and meet with your local MRC Director to introduce him/her to HOSA and Health Science Education.

Following the meeting, complete the summary form in Attachment 2-4.

6. Guest speaker (optional) Invite a member of the local MRC to your health science class(es) or HOSA chapter. The topic should support your curriculum (intended instructional outcomes) and may include information about the MRC in addition to the selected topic. (For example, you might invite a pharmacist to talk about careers in pharmacy as well as sharing his/her MRC experiences.)

If you choose to have a guest speaker from the MRC, include a summary of the speaker in your notebook.

ATTACHMENT 2-1
MRC 101 POWERPOINT

Please answer the following questions about the Medical Reserve Corps.

1. Many people wanted to help in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, but there were problems when thousands of volunteers showed up without any organization. What were the challenges with these volunteers?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

2. Most health-credentialed MRC volunteers are from what profession?

3. List 4 things that all MRC units have in common:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

4. Can retired healthcare professionals join a local MRC? Yes No

5. Can non-healthcare volunteers join a local MRC? Yes No

6. MRC members are encouraged to support the Surgeon General's priorities for public health, including the promotion of health literacy. What is health literacy?

ATTACHMENT 2-2

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – RATING SHEET

Please review the Partnership Opportunities suggested for HOSA chapters with MRCs. Rate each opportunity in the chart below.

	Ease of Implementation On a scale of 5 (being easy) and 1 (being difficult) how challenging would it be to implement this strategy?	Curriculum Integration On a scale of 5 (very relevant) to 1 (irrelevant) how well does this strategy fit with your instructional goals?	Potential On a scale of 5 (being very likely) to 1 (unlikely) what is the likelihood that you would suggest this partnership strategy to your local MRC?
MRC Recruitment			
Emergency Shelters			
Community Flu Clinics and Health Fairs			
Health Literacy			
Disaster Drills			
HOSA State Conference Involvement			

ATTACHMENT 2-3

PIMA COUNTY STUDENT MRC REVIEW SUMMARY

The Pima County Health Department in Arizona developed a comprehensive model for student involvement in the Medical Reserve Corps. We invite you to read the brochure and student handbook, and then answer the questions below.

What were the strengths of the Student Medical Reserve Corps brochure?

After reading the Student Medical Reserve Corps volunteer handbook, what do you like about the program, and what do you think are the challenges?

Likes _____

Challenges _____

Will you share the Pima County model (documents) with your local health department? Why or why not?

If your health science students were involved in a program similar to the MRC program offered by the Pima County Health Department, could you (would you) count MRC hours as clinical hours? Why or why not?

ATTACHMENT 2-4

THE HOSA-MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS PARTNERSHIP

Report Form

HOSA Chapter _____

Address _____

Chapter Advisor _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Chapter President or MRC Committee Chair _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

MRC Unit _____

Sponsoring Agency _____

Director _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Date and Location of Partnership Meeting

Meeting Participants

Outcomes of Meeting (use reverse if necessary)

What specific plans have been made for this partnership, and what opportunities are being considered for the future?

Please mail, fax or e-mail this form to:

National HOSA
6021 Morriss Road, Suite 111 ▪ Flower Mound, TX 75028
972 874-0063 (Fax) ▪ ksmith@hosa.org

