

## What is the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)?

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities. The MRC network is comprised of more than 190,000 volunteers in roughly 800 community-based units located throughout the United States and its territories.

MRC units are made up of medical and non-medical volunteers, serving up to their licensed skill level based on incident need. Members can volunteer as much time as they like on health and wellness activities or just serve in times of need. Volunteers can be deployed locally in the event of a public health emergency or natural disaster, support first aid stations at community events, educate the public on preparedness, and assist in promoting various health and wellness activities. More information about the Vermont MRC can be found at [www.OnCallforVt.org](http://www.OnCallforVt.org).

## How do I join the MRC?

Interested volunteers can sign-up through our [volunteer website](#). When signing up, make sure you select the unit [in your area](#). Your unit coordinator will reach out to you.

We recommend that you check out our registration [how-to](#) before you begin the MRC registration process.

All MRC volunteers are required to complete a background check to join the MRC program.

## How do I complete the background check requirements?

All MRC volunteers are required to complete background checks as you may be asked to work with people who experience physical, emotional, social, and/or economic vulnerability.

If you have **not lived** in Vermont consecutively for the last five (5) years or longer, you will need have fingerprints done.

If you **have been** in Vermont for five years or longer, please do not make an appointment for fingerprints.

Previous background checks or fingerprints from employers or organizations outside of those completed by the Vermont MRC program do not qualify and, therefore, are not accepted. If you split living in Vermont and another state(s), you must be fingerprinted as a part of the background check.

The only exception to the background check requirements is if you are a current Agency of Human Services (AHS) State of Vermont employee. Non-AHS State of Vermont employees must complete a background check.

The MRC program does not schedule fingerprint appointments. Please be aware appointments may be hard to make due to the pandemic. [Find information on fingerprint centers](#).

Filling out the background documents on an iPhone or iPad is not recommended.

All background documents should be sent together in one email to [MRC@vermont.gov](mailto:MRC@vermont.gov) or mailed in one envelope to: ATTN: Derek Pitts, Vermont Department Health, P.O. BOX 70 Burlington, VT 05402.

## **Are MRC volunteers helping with vaccine efforts?**

Currently, MRC volunteers are being utilized for COVID-19 vaccination clinics, both in medical and non-medical roles.

If you are interested in assisting at vaccination clinics, we ask that you be willing to volunteer at one (1) clinic per week for eight (8) hours for three (3) months. This work will be in person and PPE (surgical masks and gloves, with face shields for vaccinators) will be provided. Shifts and frequency are subject to change based on the size of the staffing pool in each location.

## **Will I receive a vaccine if I am helping at the clinics?**

Currently, MRC members do not receive a vaccine for assisting at the clinics.

There will be social distancing precautions and other safety measures in place. The Health Department recognizes this does not eliminate the risk completely, but we hope to vaccinate every Vermonter when supplies allow. More information about vaccines can be found at [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](http://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine).

## **Are MRC volunteers being used as contact tracers?**

Most contact tracers in Vermont are State of Vermont employees or contracted vendors. A small number of volunteers are being used for the Workplace Outbreak Response Team, but the staffing request is currently filled for this opportunity.

There is a need for volunteers to support in-person roles at long-term care facilities when sites are facing staffing shortages due to outbreaks and for the vaccine operations at the Vermont Department of Health Offices of Local Health.

For non-MRC/Volunteer program related questions, [please visit our website](#) or search our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).