



Health Department
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

Office of the County Health Officer
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Dear Colleague,

As the Multnomah County Health Officer, I would like to invite you to join the Multnomah County Health Reserve Corps, a component of our community's emergency preparedness effort.

Background

Recent disasters such as the Asian Tsunami of 2004 and Hurricane Katrina of 2005 remind us of the importance of community preparedness and the crucial role that healthcare providers and institutions can play in the response to large-scale emergencies.

One of the things we have learned is that the Portland metropolitan area might need additional health care providers to support the health and medical aspects of an emergency response. To address this situation and improve our community's preparedness, Multnomah County Health Department developed the Health Reserve Corps.

Health Reserve Corps

The Health Reserve Corps (HRC) is a voluntary unit, made up of a wide range of licensed and certified healthcare professionals who will be called upon to assist in the response to large-scale emergencies. These could include medical events such as a communicable disease outbreak, a bioterrorist event, or other traumatic events resulting in mass casualties. HRC volunteers will be called in to work in field response operations such as temporary medical evaluation and care units, or mass prophylaxis/vaccination clinics. Volunteers may also supplement staff shortages at health care facilities.

The Health Reserve Corps program provides a unique opportunity for you to become a prepared and effective part of the health response to an emergency. Prior to an emergency, HRC membership will require little work on your part. The Health Reserve Corps will provide a basic orientation through brief self-study materials. There will also be opportunities to participate in emergency response exercises. If the Corps is activated, members will receive specific skills training to assure they are ready to respond to the specific event.

Join Now

The Health Reserve Corps is actively recruiting healthcare professionals who either live or work within Multnomah County. For more information or to download an application, go to <http://www.mchealth.org/hrc> or contact Zumana Rios, (ph 503-988-3663 x26115, email zumana.r.rios@co.multnomah.or.us).

I hope you will join the volunteer Health Reserve Corps. Your skills and expertise will greatly enhance our community's preparedness for emergencies and help us save lives.

Sincerely,

Gary Oxman, MD, MPH
Health Officer
Multnomah County Health Department

