



NEWS RELEASE . FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCCHD encourages volunteers to join Oklahoma's emergency response efforts

(Oklahoma City, OK) The National Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program was created in July 2002 by the U.S. Surgeon General following the terrorist attacks on September 11. The objective of the MRC program is to establish a national network of local, community-based groups of medical, public health, and other volunteers to supplement and support on-going emergency response systems and personnel. The Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) directs the Region 8 Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps program (OKMRC), and it is the only medical and public health volunteer program in the state.

"When major emergencies and disasters occur, MRC volunteers can provide important aid during critical early hours," said Dominique Baradaran, Unit Coordinator for Oklahoma County MRC. "Additionally, MRC volunteers can fill critical gaps in staffing needs during long-term public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic," Baradaran added.

Any Oklahoma resident or individual employed in Oklahoma can apply to be a part of the OKMRC. The mission of the OKMRC is to identify, organize, train and sustain a cadre of medical, public health, and community volunteers who will contribute their skills and expertise to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts during times of community need and in ongoing public health efforts.

Training will be provided in the various areas of healthcare and disaster preparedness management.

Volunteers interested in joining the OKMRC can visit www.okmrc.org to learn more on how you can help in the ongoing COVID-19 response, as well as get involved in other community preparedness events.

About Oklahoma City-County Health Department

Established in 1910, Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) is committed to protecting health, promoting wellness, and preventing disease to ensure a healthy future for the Oklahoma County-area community. OCCHD was one of the first public health departments in the nation to receive accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. For more information, please visit www.occhd.org.