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Danville Community College

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April 13, 2020

Dear DCC Family,

On behalf of Governor Northam, I write to encourage you to take action and to consider volunteering for one of the worthiest causes, fighting the COVID-19 virus. The Governor is looking for an additional 30,000 medical and non-medical volunteers to provide support for the immediate surge in our hospitals, long term care facilities and alternate care sites. To help save lives, sign up today as a volunteer with the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).

The Virginia Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a force of dedicated volunteers who stand ready to support the community in the event of a public health emergency. Signing up to serve with the Medical Reserve Corps is a great opportunity for health care majors and other students interested in helping their fellow Virginians. Medical experience is recommended but not required. There are many opportunities for everyone.

To become a Virginia Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer, please visit [Virginia Volunteer Health System](#). If you have any questions, please contact vamrc@vdh.virginia.gov.

As we look towards the end of this challenging semester, I am reminded how you have all adjusted to the rapidly changing environment as we look to provide you the best education possible at this time. And I know it has not been easy - on you, your families, and our faculty and staff. But our DCC family is resilient, as is the Commonwealth. Let's continue to work together to keep us moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jackie Gill-Powell'.

Jackie Gill-Powell, EdD
President, Danville Community College

FAQ for Prospective Volunteers

I am a Virginian interested in volunteering during the COVID-19 crisis. Where do I register?

To become a Virginia Medical Reserve Corps volunteer, please visit [Virginia Volunteer Health System \(www.vamrc.org\)](http://www.vamrc.org). Once you apply, your application is immediately forwarded to the MRC coordinator in your area. Applications that are incomplete after 2 weeks will be deleted. If you need assistance, please email vamrc@vdh.virginia.gov.

Who can join a Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) unit?

Community members, with or without medical training, who are willing to support public health on a daily basis or during public health emergencies are encouraged to join. This includes professionals from all of the health occupations. MRC units have non-medical volunteers who provide education, logistics, communication, coordination and other support.

Can I apply if I'm not currently licensed or practicing in a medical field?

Yes. MRC units need both medical and non-medical volunteers. Some of the positions for volunteers will require licensure, to protect the volunteer as well as to ensure the best care for those in need of medical attention. Those with prior medical expertise without an active license may serve as medical interviewers, clinic coordinators, and more. There is also a need for unlicensed health professionals and those without any medical training.

What types of activities may I be asked to help with as a medical volunteer?

Your direct patient care responsibilities will be related to your licensure and experience. These activities will look different depending on what setting you are volunteering in and what skillsets are in current demand.

What types of activities may I be asked to help with as a non-medical volunteer?

Depending on your experiences and setting, non-medical volunteers will work with patient intake, scribing, cleaning, technology support, data entry and stocking of supplies. Volunteers can also be used to answer calls or assist with communications.

What liability protection is available for volunteers?

In 2005, the Virginia General Assembly passed House Bill 2520 to ensure additional protection for MRC volunteers. MRC Volunteers who are called to a health event by a Virginia Medical Reserve Corps and volunteer under the direction of the Virginia Department of Health receive the same risk management coverage under the state as VDH employees when they are involved in state-sanctioned and directed programs. Similar protections apply to volunteers in Medical Reserve Corps directly tied to city or county government organizations when directed by representatives of those government agencies.

You should not be placed in a position by any MRC to perform any task or skill that is outside your existing scope of practice or experience. Volunteers should protect themselves by only working within their scope of practice or skill at all times. There are also other liability protections that may apply to MRC volunteers when performing their duties. [*For a complete list of all liability coverage for emergency response, please click here.*](#)

Will I be asked to volunteer for an emergency event outside of Virginia?

MRC volunteers are considered local assets. However, different localities may experience a surge in demand as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and require additional volunteer support. Your local, regional or state MRC coordinator will provide all volunteer requests and information. If you are willing to volunteer outside your local area, please indicate that when completing your volunteer application.

How will I be contacted in an emergency?

You will be notified by your local unit coordinator via the information that you provide when applying to join your MRC unit. You will receive an alert notification via email, text and phone from the [Virginia Volunteer Health System](#). Therefore, it is very important that you keep your contact information current. You can access your volunteer profile at any time to update your information or [contact your MRC coordinator](#).

If I have concerns once I have volunteered, whom do I contact?

Please contact your [local MRC Unit Coordinator or the State Volunteer Coordinator at \[vamrc@vdh.virginia.gov\]\(mailto:vamrc@vdh.virginia.gov\)](#).