

Pandemic and High-Consequence Infectious Diseases Trainings for MRC Units

August 2026

The [Medical Reserve Corps](#) (MRC) is a national network of more than 270,000 volunteers, organized in about 700 units to improve the health and safety of their communities. The MRC recruits, trains, and activates volunteers to respond to community health and safety needs during emergencies. Since 2006, MRC volunteers have provided critical support during pandemics and infectious disease outbreaks. Units can support pandemic and high-consequence infectious disease (HCID) responses by augmenting local public health and healthcare systems with trained volunteers. Depending on local capabilities and mission requirements, MRC volunteers may assist with medical countermeasure distribution and administration, disease surveillance, contact tracing, community education, logistics, administrative support, and healthcare surge activities.

This curated set of training courses provides information on the evolving threat landscape for HCIDs, focuses on the key areas where MRC units are likely to support pandemic and HCID responses, and equips MRC volunteers with the knowledge and practices needed to stay safe while serving their communities.

Access [CDC TRAIN](#) for a more extensive collection of infectious disease courses geared towards healthcare and public health professionals.

Feel free to [email ASPR TRACIE](#) with any questions or to suggest additional HCID training resources for inclusion.

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Epidemiology and Surveillance

Midwestern Public Health Training Center. (2023). [Basic Epidemiology: Infectious Disease](#). (Free registration required.)

The course offers an opportunity to learn how an epidemiologist investigates the causes of disease, its distribution, how it spreads, and measures for control and prevention.

Northwest Center for Public Health Practice. (2018). [Introduction to Public Health Surveillance.](#)

Surveillance is a key function of public health, but what does it mean? This module introduces public health surveillance concepts and principles for public health workers who have little or no prior training in epidemiology. You'll learn about surveillance systems in local, state, and national public health practice and how these important systems are used in tracking diseases and other public health threats.

General Infectious Disease Training

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2026). [Project Firstline: Training and Educational Materials.](#)

These courses are geared towards infection control, cater to various learning styles, and range from five to 30 minutes in length.

North Carolina Public Health Training Network. (2025). [Infectious Disease Control, Part 1: Introduction.](#)

This course provides an overview of the history of major infectious disease pandemics, including how risky behaviors, overuse of antibiotics, and global migration increase infectious disease threats.

Office of Medical Reserve Corps. (2026). [MRC D-SAFE Asynchronous Training.](#) (Free registration required.)

These sessions address a variety of emerging pathogens, particularly high consequence infectious diseases, and provide an overview of the pathogen and related current scientific information, and actions MRC volunteers can take to help prevent, mitigate, and manage local outbreaks.

University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), Department of Emergency Health Services. (2018). [Emerging Infectious Diseases Videos for Prehospital Providers.](#) (Free registration necessary.)

This nine-module can help first responders (e.g., emergency medical services personnel, EMTs, paramedics, first-aid trained fire fighters, law enforcement personnel, and volunteers) learn more about emerging infectious diseases. Topics include infection control, personal protective equipment, and decontamination.

Infection Prevention and Control

Mid-America Regional Council. (2011). [Training for Volunteers in Disaster Shelters: Universal Precautions.](#)

This video provides instructions on hand washing and glove doffing, and related precautions MRC members can use while volunteering in disaster shelters and other medical scenarios.

National Association of City and County Health Officials. (2026). [Infection Prevention and Control Resource Library.](#)

Selecting “training plan” and/or “training and education” when searching this library will generate a list of related courses in infection prevention and control.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2025). [Basics of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard for the Healthcare Setting.](#)

This self-study course provides an overview of bloodborne pathogen safety and the role of healthcare staff in preventing the spread of infections to themselves, colleagues and patients. Intended audiences are clinical staff in the inpatient setting including acute care, long term care and inpatient rehabilitation. It contains non-graded knowledge checks so learners can interact with the content. Estimated course duration is 20 to 25 minutes. The course may be taken in more than one sitting.

Region 6 South Central Public Health Learning Center. (2021). [Bioterrorism Preparedness: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control.](#) (Free registration required.)

This course introduces the fundamentals of infectious disease prevention and control and provides information on related tools.

Mass Distribution and Dispensing/Administration of Medical Countermeasures

Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response. (n.d.). [SNS Materiel Management Considerations.](#) (Accessed 6/30/2026; free registration required.)

The purpose of this course is to train participants how to successfully respond during an emergency requiring the receipt and distribution of large quantities of medical materiel to points of dispensing (PODS), treatment centers, or other points of care, often in rapid timeframes and in the specific configurations the receiving site can manage.

DelValle Institute Learning Center. (2020). [Mass Dispensing Clinic: Just-In-Time Training \(JITT\)](#). (Free registration required.)

This 10-minute online module provides an overview of the purpose and functions of a typical Mass Dispensing Clinic. By the end of the course, learners will be able to identify the standard stations and supporting functions required to operate a Mass Dispensing Clinic and describe how the Incident Command System (ICS) is used to organize staff.

Region 6 South Central Public Health Training Center. (n.d.). [Integrating Infection Prevention and Control Science into POD-based Planning](#). (Free registration required.)

The primary goal of this course is to increase awareness and integration of infection prevention and control (IPC) principles and environmental health and exposure sciences into rapid dispensing operations of any available medical countermeasure.

Region 6 South Central Public Health Training Center. (2021). [Establishing Closed PODs: An Overview of Recruitment, Training and Operational Matters](#). (Free registration required.)

During a public health emergency that requires medical prophylaxis for a significant number of residents within 48 hours, healthcare entities will call upon their employees to work. Closed Points of Dispensing (POD) sites can provide prophylaxis for staff and their loved ones; this course provides an overview of these sites, the Strategic National Stockpile, administrative processes associated with Closed PODs, and related promising practices.

Southwest Utah Public Health. (2025). [Point of Dispense \(POD\) Training](#).

This short video was created for Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and highlights critical roles, responsibilities, and procedures involved in operating and supporting a point of distribution during public health emergencies.

University of Minnesota. (2024). [PUBH X322 - Online: PODs \(Points of Dispensing\): Public Health Training for Staff and Volunteers](#).

This course (online and self-paced) was designed to supplement just-in-time training and provides a general overview of points of dispensing (PODs) and the roles that staff and volunteers can play to ensure PODs run smoothly. It also includes information on the Strategic National Stockpile in emergency response, dispensing site design and flow, and positions which should be filled for POD operations.

Virginia Department of Health, Office of Emergency Preparedness. (2022). [Introduction to PODs.](#)

This video covers points of distribution (PODs), when they are needed, the importance and role of volunteers, PODs and incident command, and the after-action process.

Western Kentucky Medical Reserve Corps. (2024). [MRC POD Training Video 2024.](#)

This brief video describes mass dispensing efforts, points of dispensing, and related roles and tasks for select unit members.

Personal Protective Equipment

Appalachian Medical Reserve Corps. (2024). [Personal Protection Equipment Training Videos.](#)

This webpage features links to two short videos on donning and doffing personal protective equipment.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [CDC Project Firstline: What is PPE?](#) (Accessed 8/25/2026.)

This short recording provides a basic overview of personal protective equipment, why it is used by healthcare professionals, and how to use it correctly.

Sorenson, A. (2024). [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\): Donning and Doffing.](#) Region 8 Mountain Plains Regional Disaster Health Response System.

The speaker provides an overview of personal protective equipment and how to safely don and remove it.