**Laws and Regulations pertaining to Emergency Management:**

[Emergency Preparedness laws and regulations | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/lists/emergency-preparedness-laws-and-regulations)

As PHN in your local Health Department, you will work with an alliance of federal, state and local groups, with the common objective of ensuring that all have the knowledge, plans, and tools to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. PHNs also provide information and resources to help the people of Massachusetts feel safe and prepared for all types of emergencies or disasters. The materials in this chapter will guide you to the proper resources for overseeing your Health Department’s emergency management program. Most likely you will work closely with your public health director and municipal public safety leaders

The state’s preparedness program is funded largely by a Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grant from the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

**A free, comprehensive online training on Emergency Management Guidelines is available through the Local Public Health Institute (LPHI):**

[**Emergency Preparedness Trainings | Local Public Health Institute of Massachusetts (bu.edu)**](https://sites.bu.edu/masslocalinstitute/emergency-preparedness-2/)

1. **Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM)**
2. **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)**
3. **Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions (HMCC)**
4. **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**
5. **Emergency Dispensing Sites (EDS)**
6. **MDPH Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM)**

[Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (mass.gov)](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-preparedness-and-emergency-management)

Main office (617) 624-6088

[M DPH Health and Homeland Alerting Network (HHAN)](https://www.masshhan.org/hhan/home.do)  [Alert.Network@ state.ma.us](mailto:Alert.Network@%20state.ma.us)

[WebEOC 8.10](https://mdph.webeocasp.com/mdph/) [dph.webeoc@ state.ma.us](mailto:dph.webeoc@massmail.state.ma.us)

[MA Responds](https://www.maresponds.org/) [maresponds@ state.ma.us](mailto:maresponds@massmail.state.ma.us)

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| **Other Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Resources** | * + [**CDC Center for Preparedness and Response**](https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/index.htm)     - [**PHEP Funding Guidance**](https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/readiness/index.htm)     - [**Public Health Preparedness Resources**](https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/readiness/resources.htm)   + [**NACCHO Public Health Preparedness Resources for Local Health**](https://www.naccho.org/programs/public-health-preparedness)   + [Stay Aware Be Prepared | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/stay-aware-be-prepared) |

1. **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)**

[Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-emergency-management-agency)

**MEMA Headquarters** (“The Bunker”)

400 Worcester Road (Route 9 East), Framingham, MA 01702

**Receptionist**: (508) 820-2001

*M-F, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. for any business calls*

**24/7 Communications Center**: (508) 820-2000

*For emergency support or coordination*

[MEMA Contact Information and Staff Directory | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mema-contact-information-and-staff-directory)

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| **Other Emergency Management Resources** | * [**Federal Emergency Management Agency**](https://www.fema.gov/) **(FEMA)** * [**National Incident Management System (NIMS)**](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims) * [**Incident Command System (ICS) Resources**](https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/) * [**Emergency Management Institute (Training)**](https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx) * [Community Emergency Preparedness | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/be-prepared-for-emergencies/need-to-know) |

1. **Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions (HMCC)**

Six regional Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions (HMCCs) have been established as a **regional collaborative effort among:**

* **Local Public Health**
* **EMS**
* **Long Term Care Facilities**
* **Large Ambulatory Care Practices**
* **Community Health Centers**
* **Hospitals**

**HMCCs help to strengthen and promote the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of the region, and to share resources.** HMCCs are explained in more detail in this website:

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| **HMCC Resources** | * [Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions (HMCC) |Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-the-health-and-medical-coordinating-coalitions) |

As the Health Department PHN, you will become involved in the activities of your designated HMCC; HMCC governance varies from region to region. Determine which region your community falls in and contact your region for more details.

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| **REGION** | **AREA** | **WEBSITE** |
| **1** | **Western** | <https://region1hmcc.org/> |
| **2** | **Central** | <https://archecoalition.org/phep-coalition/> |
| **3** | **Northeast** | <https://hmccreg3.org/public-health/> |
| **4AB** | **Metrowest** | <https://region4ab.org/> |
| **4C** | **Boston** | [BostonHPC (bphc.org)](http://www.bphc.org/whatwedo/emergency-services-preparedness/public-health-preparedness/Pages/BostonHPC.aspx) |
| **5** | **Southeast** | <https://www.region5hmcc.com/> |

1. **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**

The **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** is a federal network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities. In Massachusetts, the MRC network is comprised of 35 units. Each unit is organized to best suit the unique challenges of its area. In all cases, MRC units are local assets and are deployed at the discretion of local MRC unit protocols. Most local Health Departments are affiliated with or operate MRC units.

Every MA MRC unit is led by a local MRC Unit Coordinator, who matches local volunteer capabilities and schedules with local needs for both emergency responses and public health initiatives. To find out which MRC your Health Department belongs to, and who your MRC Unit Coordinator is, go to: [Find an MRC Unit — Medical Reserve Corps of MA](https://www.mamedicalreservecorps.org/find-an-mrc-unit).

MRC volunteers are both clinical and non-clinical. Massachusetts MRC units are currently providing local responses to COVID-19 in their communities for activities ranging from supporting testing sites, vaccination clinics, contact tracing, providing wellness checks and support services in local communities, among other tasks that arise.

As a PHN, you will come to deeply appreciate MRC Volunteers as you coordinate your volunteers for municipal health events like flu clinics; activities like staffing first aid tents for community events and for mitigating emergency events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Develop a solid collaboration with your MRC Unit leaders and your MRC Volunteers; in times of planning and preparation for disasters and during emergency events, they are invaluable.

**MA Responds (maresponds.org)**

**MA Responds** is an online registration system for clinical and non-clinical volunteers. This system is a partnership among the MDPH, local MRC units, and other volunteer organizations in Massachusetts. Registering with MA Responds allows people to volunteer for a variety of public health events. The MA Responds system is maintained by MDPH and the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS). Federally recognized MRC units that receive state funding must register and credential all volunteers through MA Responds and attend MA Responds trainings.

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| **Other MRC Resources** | * + [MRC of Massachusetts](https://www.mamedicalreservecorps.org/)   + [Federal MRC Program](https://www.phe.gov/mrc/Pages/default.aspx)   + [MA Responds](https://www.maresponds.org/)   + [MA Animal Response Team (SMART)](http://smartma.org/)   + [NACCHO MRC Resources](https://www.naccho.org/programs/public-health-preparedness/medical-reserve-corps) |

1. **Emergency Dispensing Sites (EDS)**

Distribution and dispensing of medical countermeasures (MCM) is a critical response capability for public health and emergency management officials. MCM, such as antibiotics and vaccines, are used to prevent against, protect from, and as treatment for public health threats.

Pre-event planning, training, and exercises improve our ability to rapidly distribute MCM to healthcare providers, pharmacies, and local Emergency Dispensing Sites. An Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) is a planned space where MCM are dispensed to those who may have been exposed to a health threat. An EDS may be used to respond to a range of health threats, including:

* Infectious disease outbreaks (COVID-19 pandemic)
* Exposure to infectious diseases (Hepatitis A in a food handler)
* Acts of terrorism (biological, chemical, radiological, nuclear)

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| **Other EDS Resources** | * [OPEM EDS Manual](https://www.mass.gov/doc/emergency-dispensing-sites-eds/download) * [Resources and templates for the EDS Toolkit](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/resources-and-templates-for-the-emergency-dispensing-site-toolkit) |

Many Health Departments routinely demonstrate the ability to dispense vaccines through their annual flu clinics; they use their flu clinics to exercise EDS plans and evaluate staff and volunteer training.

**A free online training on EDS Guidance is available through the Local Public Health Institute (LPHI):** [**Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) Guidance | Local Public Health Institute of Massachusetts (bu.edu)**](https://sites.bu.edu/masslocalinstitute/2018/07/18/emergency-dispensing-site-eds-guidance/)