



Mission of Mercy & Health Equity Festival Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is a “Mission of Mercy” (or MOM)?

Mission of Mercy is a gathering of volunteer dental professionals who, along with a volunteer staff of several hundred, hold free, two-day clinics to provide *emergency* dental care at locations around the country.

Q. What is a “Mission of Mercy & Health Equity Festival” or (MOM&HEF)?

The MOM & HEF provides all the same services as a typical MOM, but, it also includes additional health services, such as blood pressure, diabetes, and vision screening, flu shots, HIV tests, and education and counseling services.

Q. When did MOM begin?

In July 2000, the Virginia Dental Health Foundation launched the first Mission of Mercy (MOM) Project. The Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry, in conjunction with the Virginia Dental Association and the Virginia Health Care Foundation, formed a partnership to provide dental care for the uninsured and underserved populations of Virginia. Since then, thousands of patients in a growing number of states have been served. Virginia and Texas run multiple events each year. Maryland is home to four MOM events hosted in Western Maryland, Mid-Maryland, Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland, with two occurring each year. Cumberland was the site for the first Maryland MOM in October 2010.

Q. What is the cost?

There is no cost to the patient, no insurance form, nothing. It is free.

Q. Who pays for everything?

The dental professionals donate their services. The dental organizations of the state where the event is held raise private donations to cover the entire cost of the event. Donations may come in the form of funds, supplies, donated meals and/or snacks, tables and chairs, badges, forms, and a variety of other support items. If you'd like to donate, see our donations page.

Q. What services are provided?

The MOM event will offer cleanings, fillings, extractions, some oral surgery and oral hygiene education. Triage dentists will determine which *emergency* services can be offered to the patient. We will also offer the following health services: cholesterol checks, vision exams, blood pressure reading, diabetes screening (blood glucose checks), HIV tests, nutritional counseling, and more.



Q. Who is eligible to be treated?

Only ADULTS, 18 years old or older are eligible to be treated. There are no restrictions unless the patient cannot be treated because of a medical reason. No children are permitted within the clinic and will be asked to leave the premises.

Q. Can I bring my children?

No. Children are not allowed in the clinic building.

Q. Is transportation provided to patients?

No transportation will be provided to the clinic; however, we encourage patients to use www.wmata.com to help plan their trip to the Xfinity Center.

Q. What should I bring?

Please bring some form of ID. If available, patients are encouraged to bring their medical history, and any x-rays or medication they are currently taking. This will assist the doctors and dentists in assessing the patients' most critical needs.

Q. What if the patient needs pain medication or antibiotics?

There will be no narcotics on site. Treating dentists will dispense pre-treatment antibiotics if indicated in the medical screening. Patients may receive a prescription for post-operative medications to be filled at a participating community pharmacy.

Q. What if a patient needs additional treatment?

Ideally, patients' treatment will be completed at the MOM event. If necessary, certain local dental providers will follow-up services on an as needed basis to participants in the MOM event. Follow up will not include additional and/or non-emergency services. A list of additional dental resources will also be provided to patients at the event.

Q. Who can volunteer?

You can if you are over 18 years old! We have many roles for general volunteers in addition to clinical roles for which you'd need a MD license to volunteer at the MOM.

Q. Can my group volunteer for the event?

Groups are welcome to participate in the Mid-Maryland Mission of Mercy and Health Equity Festival. Please give the sign-up link to your group members so each one can read and acknowledge the waiver while registering online. Share among yourselves the shift you want everyone to sign up to work.



Q. What are the volunteer needs?

Volunteers are needed to assist in every aspect of the event. “General Volunteers” help with tasks such as monitoring the patient line, patient check-in/out, volunteer check-in/out, patient escorts, hospitality, IT support, translators, etc. “Clinical Dental/Medical” volunteers (licensed professionals) provide direct patient care: medical pre-screen, dental triage, x-rays, dental services, and post-op. “Clinical Students” are working towards a degree or certification and license in dental and medical profession and at the MOM provide care under the supervision of their professor.

Q. I want to volunteer but I don’t know which roles I am allowed to volunteer for.

Unless you are a licensed medical or dental professional, or a student working towards a degree in a medical or dental field, you are considered a “General Volunteer.”

Dental and medical professional volunteers must be **licensed in the state of Maryland** and must submit their license information during registration for verification. Dentists and Dental Hygienists can apply for a Temporary Maryland License by submitting an application through [this website](#). Please do this before registering to volunteer.

Below are some general guidelines about who can serve in which clinical roles. All clinical professionals must have a **Maryland** license.

Dentists: Those with a dental degree and a current, unrestricted dental license may volunteer in the following areas: dental triage, emergency endodontics, hygiene, restorative, oral surgery, and post-op.

Hygienists: Those with a dental hygiene degree and a current, unrestricted dental hygienist license may volunteer in the following areas: hygiene, assisting, and radiology.

Dental Assistants: May assist in dental triage, hygiene, restorative, oral surgery, radiology, and sterilization/supplies.

Dental Equipment Maintenance: Individuals with appropriate training and experience are needed to set up, maintain, and tear down dental equipment.

LPN, RN, Physician, Physician Assistants, and Nurse’s Aid: May conduct a medical history and check blood pressure and blood glucose levels during the medical pre-screening.

Students: Dental, dental hygienist, dental assistant, pharmacy, medical, nursing, and medical assistant students may volunteer for various clinical and non-clinical volunteer work areas. Clinical roles include assisting in: medical pre-screen, hygiene, restorative, oral surgery,



radiology; sterilization/supplies; pharmacy; or post-op. *Please check with your school about specific restrictions on which area(s) you may serve in.*

Q. What application should I fill out?

Dentist, Hygienist, Dental Assistant, X-Ray Tech, & Medical Personnel: [Register Here](#)

Students in Medical or Dental Programs: Check back soon for the Student Application

General Volunteers: Check back soon for the General Volunteer Application