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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What is the purpose of MI Volunteer Registry?

The purpose of the MI Volunteer Registry is to provide an electronic environment for volunteers to indicate their interests and contact information for helping to support a public health or medical emergency response. The Registry functions as a central location for volunteer information, which can be queried and appropriate volunteers contacted by e-mail.

Where does support come from for the MI Volunteer Registry?

Funding for the program is provided through a federal cooperative agreement with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP); and the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) national program. Funds have been used to develop, implement, and sustain the Registry. Volunteers, along with designated local and regional preparedness partners, are able to use the system without direct cost to them.

What professions are being sought?

The MI Volunteer Registry seeks people with all skill levels and experiences. When registering to volunteer, you will be asked to select a volunteer organization(s) that is right for you!

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and can take a more active role in preparing their community. To register, you must have already completed the 20-hour CERT course.

<p>Fire Corps promotes the use of citizen advocates to enhance the capacity of resource-constrained fire and rescue departments at all levels: volunteer, combination, and career. Citizen advocates can assist local fire departments in a range of activities including fire safety outreach, youth programs, and administrative support. To register, you must belong to a certified Fire Corps organization and have completed their required training.</p>
<p>General Volunteers represent all types of individuals that wish to volunteer, including both medical and non-medical professions. A specific volunteer affiliation is not required to become a member; however, individuals may indicate an affiliation with a Regional Healthcare Coalition (HCC), Local Health Department (LHD), or Tribal Community Response Team.</p>
<p>There are 45 Local Health Departments (LHDs) that serve all the jurisdictions in Michigan, providing a myriad of programs, including emergency preparedness services to the public. Individuals may indicate an affiliation with an LHD, which may include interest or involvement as a jurisdictional volunteer or strike team member. Local Public Health Directory</p>
<p>Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) strengthens communities by offering support throughout the year, as well as during local emergencies and other times of community need. Public health, medical, or other volunteers work in coordination with existing local emergency response programs and supplement public health initiatives. You must first belong to a local MRC unit, prior to registering on the MI Volunteer Registry. For more information visit www.medicalreservecorps.gov.</p>
<p>The Michigan Cyber Civilian Corps (MiC3) mission is to work with government, private sector organizations, and volunteers from government, education, and business sectors to create and implement a rapid response team who will respond to Governor declared state of emergency cyber incidents and provide mutual aid to government, education, and business organizations in the State of Michigan.</p>
<p>The Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT) is a Mass Fatality Response Team made up of different professions all with the common goal of assisting county Medical Examiners, Emergency Management, and Public Health with Mass Fatality management. To register, you must be a member of the team. Visit www.mimort.org for more information or contact Gloria Zunker at ZunkerG1@michigan.gov.</p>
<p>The Michigan State Animal Response Team (MI-SART) is dedicated to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters which affect animals in Michigan. MI-SART is a volunteer organization of trained and credentialed veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and others with animal care experience. To register, you must complete certain training requirements and submit documentation to verify completion. Visit http://www.michigansart.org for more information.</p>
<p>The Michigan Transportable Emergency Surge Assistance Medical Unit (MI-TESA) is an all-weather 140 bed mobile field hospital that is supported by Mobile Medical Personnel and Tactical Support Teams to meet medical surge or healthcare infrastructure disruption. To register, you must be a member of the team. For more information on MI-TESA contact Loren Korte at kortel@michigan.gov.</p>
<p>An expanded Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) incorporates terrorism awareness education into its existing crime prevention mission, while also serving as a way to bring residents together to focus on emergency preparedness and emergency response training. To register, you must belong to a certified NWP organization and have completed their required training.</p>
<p>There are eight Regional Healthcare Coalitions (HCCs) throughout the state. These coalitions work with local partners within each region to prepare hospitals, emergency medical services, and supporting healthcare organizations to deliver coordinated and effective care to victims of terrorism and other public health/healthcare emergencies. Individuals may indicate an affiliation with an HCC, which may include interest or involvement in a regional Mobile Medical Field Team (MMFT) or other regional strike team. Regional HCC Contact Information</p>
<p>The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program provides support and resources for agencies interested in developing or enhancing a volunteer program and for citizens who wish to volunteer their time and skills with a community law enforcement agency. The program's ultimate goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. To register, you must belong to a certified VIPS organization and have completed their required training.</p>
<p>There are 12 Tribal Response Teams in the State of Michigan. Each sovereign tribe has an independent relationship with each other and with the state. The State of Michigan and Tribal governments share a responsibility to provide for and protect the health, safety, and welfare of our common constituents. Individuals may indicate interest or involvement in a Tribal Response Team. Federally Recognized Tribes in Michigan</p>

2. REGISTRATION INFORMATION



Who can register for MI Volunteer Registry?

MI Volunteer Registry was originally designed primarily for health care professionals. However, anyone over the age of 18 can register.

Where can I register to be a volunteer?

To register, go online to:

<http://www.mivolunteerregistry.org>. The registration process should take approximately 15-30 minutes for unlicensed professionals, but may take up to 60 minutes if you have multiple licenses or certifications to enter. If you have a medical license, medical specialty, or any health certifications, make sure to have them available, as you will need them for the registration process.

What do I have to do to qualify to register?

We are seeking people with health care backgrounds and experience, or a genuine interest in volunteering during an emergency. We are looking for people with all skill levels and experiences. Once you have filled out an on-line application, a Registry administrator will review and verify your information—including a criminal background check—to determine your qualification to assist with potential volunteer activities.

Can I register if I am not currently a licensed health professional?

Yes, there is a need for all types of volunteers.

If I am not currently employed, but keep my license current, can I register?

Yes, if you are retired, a student, or are not working in a health care field, please register.

May I volunteer for the MI Volunteer Registry as well as for other organizations?

Yes, the MI Volunteer Registry captures volunteer affiliations and other commitments, as identified by the applicant.

What if I am in the Military?

If you have other emergency response commitments, please indicate that in the appropriate area on the registration form.

How many people are needed for the registry?

We would like to register as many people as possible so that communities will have immediate access to the volunteers needed to support a public health or medical emergency.

How will I be able to update my information?

Once you register, you will have a secure password that will allow you to re-enter and modify your record at any time. You will also receive periodic reminders to check the accuracy of your profile.

Is it required that I register now, or may I decide if and when a crisis occurs?

We strongly recommend registration prior to an event, however it is not required. Advanced registration of volunteers will provide hospitals, public health, and emergency authorities immediate access to personnel that may be needed in the event of an emergency.

Does registering obligate me to volunteer in an emergency?

No. At the time of an event, you may be notified with a request to volunteer. Volunteers are encouraged to respond to availability requests and may change their response/availability at any time.

3. LEGAL ISSUES

Are there provisions for compensating me for time lost from work or other expenses?

The Registry is intended for volunteers who are willing to render aid or perform services on a temporary basis without pay or any benefits. Some employers support employee volunteer and community service activities. Check with your own employer for details.

Are there provisions for workers' compensation benefits?

The first option would be to discuss with your current employer their willingness to support your volunteer activity as part of their organizational community mission by providing you workers' compensation coverage. This should be a clear discussion on the MI Volunteer Registry, the potential to volunteer and its impact to your routine work schedule, and any burdens or hardships your volunteerism may cause the company/or your employer. MI Volunteer Registry activities may be requested outside of normal work hours, location, or facility.

If your employer is unwilling or unable to provide you workers' compensation coverage, Michigan has recently amended its Workers' Compensation Act- 2012 PA 83, MCL 418.161(1)(o) to include volunteer activity, provided that activity is consistent with the described process for registration and deployment during a public health or medical emergency disaster, training, or exercise.

In addition, many private health care practitioners carry their own insurances, including workers' compensation. Therefore, check with your carrier(s) to see if that coverage includes activities associated with volunteerism.

An individual registered with and deployed through the MI Volunteer Registry shall be considered an employee of the state when engaged in the performance of duties agreed upon through registration on this specific site. This would include duties related to training and exercising.

IMPORTANT: This coverage is only applicable to **volunteer activity** sanctioned by and deployed through an authorized administrator on the MI Volunteer Registry.

What protection might be available for Michigan volunteers against liability lawsuits arising out of the volunteer work?

Volunteers may be protected from civil liability through the following statutes.

However, they do not protect against harm caused by willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the rights or safety of the individual harmed.

Governmental Immunity Act, MCL 691.1401et seq.— While acting on behalf of a governmental agency, a volunteer is immune from tort liability if the volunteer is acting or reasonably believes he or she is acting within the scope of his or her authority, and the governmental agency is engaged in the exercise or discharge of a governmental function. This Act does not provide immunity for medical treatment or care to a patient, with limited exceptions. However, other laws discussed in this section may apply to provide protection from liability for medical care.

Liability of Certain Persons for Emergency Care, MCL 691.1501et seq.—

Commonly referred to as *The Good Samaritan Act*, this statute

- Protects certain licensed health professionals from civil liability when providing emergency care without compensation at the scene of an emergency, provided there was no provider/patient relationship established before the emergency
- Covers physicians, physician's assistants, registered professional nurses, and licensed practical nurses responding to a life threatening emergency in a hospital or other licensed medical care facility when the health professional's duties do not require responding to such emergencies
- Protects individuals assisting the government with a search and rescue operation

Emergency Management Act, MCL 30.401et seq. — This statute provides general immunity from liability for *Disaster Relief Forces* while on duty. A person who renders services at the express or implied request of a state official, agency, county, local coordinator, or executive body is considered an authorized disaster relief worker. During a declared state of disaster, additional protections are provided to certain health professionals who render services as part of a government-authorized response. Moreover, the Director of the Michigan State Police may issue a directive relieving volunteers of liability except for gross negligence.

Public Health Code, MCL 333.1101 et seq. – Several sections of the Public Health Code grant immunity from liability:

- **Health Department** – The director or an employee or representative of the state health department or a local health department is not personally liable for damages sustained in the performance of departmental functions, except for wanton and willful misconduct (MCL 333.2228 and 333.2465)
- **Immunization Program** – When the state health department approves a mass immunization program, health personnel employed by a governmental entity or a volunteer authorized to participate by the director or a local health officer cannot be held liable except for gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct (MCL 333.9203)
- **Emergency Medical Services Personnel** – Immunity from liability is provided except for gross negligence or willful misconduct (MCL 333.20965)

Volunteer Protection Act of 1997(Public Law 105-19, 42 USC § 14501) – Volunteers may also be protected from civil liability under this federal law.

Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, Part of the Public Health Service Act, 42 USC § 247d-6d - Provides broad and strong protection to individuals and entities that are engaged in activities related to the use of covered pharmaceutical countermeasures. This includes, for example, entities and individuals involved with manufacturing, labeling, distributing, packaging, marketing, selling, purchasing, donating, dispensing, prescribing, administering, licensing, or using of such countermeasures. Requires a PREP Act Declaration from the Secretary of Department of Health & Human Services. To be protected from liability, would need to act consistent with the terms of the [PREP Act declaration](#). Protection under a PREP Act declaration pre-empts state law, which means state law cannot provide less protection for entities or individuals covered by a PREP Act declaration. Permits a lawsuit to be filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for “willful misconduct”, which the plaintiff must prove by “clear and convincing evidence.”

For Government Employees:

Interstate Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), MCL 3.991 et seq. – Michigan is a member of this multi-state compact, which is commonly referred to as EMAC. Individuals who are deployed to other states under the compact are immune from civil liability except for willful misconduct, gross negligence, or recklessness. Deployment under the compact is through the EMAC Coordinator at the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division.

Are there any eligibility restrictions for volunteering?

All individuals willing to volunteer in support of a public health or medical emergency are encouraged to enroll in the Registry. When a volunteer’s services are needed, an authorized Registry administrator will contact the volunteer to inquire about availability, willingness to serve, and physical nature of the intended deployment. Depending on the circumstances, conditions may require certain skills, abilities, or other criteria.

What precautions are being taken by the State to protect health volunteers against disclosure of personal information contained in the MI Volunteer Registry?

Authorized Registry system administrators are the only individuals to have access to your information. Registry volunteer profile information is not open to the public. The system is designed to provide unique privileged access for specific professions and qualifications following an emergency incident. This includes the ability to limit administrator access rights to local teams and certain program affiliations (i.e., Medical Reserve Corps).

Is the State able to provide malpractice insurance to volunteers?

No. Any individuals who volunteers should carry their own malpractice insurance. Individuals can check to see if their primary employer has any provisions to provide this benefit for volunteer services.

What other legal resources are available?

Before deployment, health volunteers are advised to consult with their own legal counsel, employers, or sponsors. More information is available at the following websites:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (<http://www.phe.gov/preparedness/Pages/default.aspx>)
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) (<http://www.phe.gov/about/aspr/Pages/default.aspx>)
- Emergency System for Preparedness and Response (ESAR-VHP) Employer page (<http://www.phe.gov/esarvhp/pages/employers.aspx>)
- Medical Reserve Corps (<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov>)
- American Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org>)

4. COMMITMENTS

What is the level or length of volunteer commitment in an emergency?

Once notified of the emergency or crisis, each volunteer will determine their current availability, based on the following (*Note: Volunteers are able to communicate their level of commitment through the Deployment Preferences section of their volunteer profile*):

- What kind of incident are you willing to respond to?
- What distance are you willing to travel?
- How long are you willing to be deployed?

What kind of tasks may I be assigned?

The type of tasks assigned may depend upon the situation or event.

Can I be asked to volunteer out of state?

Yes, you may be asked but are under no obligation to volunteer out of state.

Under what conditions will I be contacted to provide emergency services?

You will be contacted in an emergency if local, regional, and/or state responder resources are not sufficient to meet the need for response and recovery efforts resulting from that incident.

Will I be paid to volunteer?

No. All volunteer work is unpaid. However, being a volunteer is important!

5. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

What kind of training or additional responsibilities will I receive dealing with emergencies?

There are no trainings or additional responsibilities required prior to an emergency for most registrants, however, disaster training and participation in local and regional exercises is encouraged. Training opportunities will be posted from time to time to the *Training & Events* section of the MI Volunteer Registry. Volunteers are encouraged to check this page frequently.

Registered volunteers may also reference the *Volunteer Training Matrix*, posted to the Document Library (Training, Volunteer Resources), which offers recommendations and at a minimum an understanding in the Incident Command Structure (ICS). Opportunities are available on-line through MI-TRAIN or through local, regional, or State events.

What kind of risks may I be exposed to in an emergency?

You may be requested on your interest or availability for responding to different types of emergencies; including floods, tornados, large fires, and events that may be chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear. You will be offered training on how to help in an emergency, as well as how to protect yourself.

How can I get information about local or regional preparedness efforts, contact information, training, and events?

Additional information may be found in the [MI Volunteer Registry](#), the [Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness](#), or [MI-TRAIN](#).

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

How will I be contacted in an emergency?

You will be contacted via e-mail. The e-mail message will provide all of the information about where to report, credentials to bring, and other necessary information relative to the situation.

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If I have questions or concerns once I have registered, whom do I contact?

If you have general or technical assistance questions regarding MI Volunteer Registry, please contact a Registry administrator at help-mivolunteerregistry@michigan.gov or (517) 335-8150.

If I volunteer, will there be help available to take care of my family?

No, this is a personal responsibility and whether you chose to volunteer or not, it is important to develop an emergency plan for your family. Learn more about [creating a plan at michigan.gov/prepares](https://michigan.gov/prepares).

Disclaimer: *This FAQ is for informational purposes only. Nothing within this FAQ is meant to provide specific legal guidance or advice to any person. Rather, this FAQ is meant to serve as an assessment tool for individuals who are considering participation in the MI Volunteer Registry. Readers should consult with their own attorneys about these laws and their applicability to particular situations or organization.*