

Frequently Asked Questions About Illinois Helps

Why was Illinois Helps (ESAR-VHP) created?

When disasters strike, hospitals close to the event often experience an influx of professional health care volunteers willing to help care for victims. History has shown that hospitals have difficulty effectively using volunteers due to an inability to verify identities and basic licensing or credentialing information, including training, skills, competencies and employment. The goal of *Illinois Helps* (ESAR-VHP) is to standardize the pre-registration system for emergency volunteer health care professionals so they can be easily mobilized.

What are my obligations as an Illinois Helps volunteer? If I register, am I required to respond if I am unable or unwilling to do so?

Volunteers always retain the right to decline participation for any reason. Once volunteers agree to respond to a request, their information is forwarded to the appropriate response organization. Pre-registration in the *Illinois Helps* database helps make the system more robust and effective in the event of a disaster or other public health emergency.

How will I be contacted in an emergency?

Illinois Helps volunteers will be asked the best way to be contacted during an emergency. Be sure to keep your information current and return to the *Illinois Helps* Web site to update your contact information if it changes.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

You can register to volunteer at:

WWW.ILLINOISHELPS.NET

For more information about *Illinois Helps* visit www.illinoishelps.com or e-mail Illinois@mchc.com.

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Illinois Helps
222 South Riverside Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60606



ILLINOIS HELPS

Healthcare
Professional
Emergency
Volunteer
Program



**BE THE FIRST TO RESPOND
TO A SIGNIFICANT DISASTER
OR PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY**



MCHC
Metropolitan Chicago
Healthcare Council



What is Illinois Helps?

Illinois Helps is the Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) for the state of Illinois and the city of Chicago. *Illinois Helps* is a secure, web based system used to register, verify and credential volunteer health care professionals BEFORE a major disaster or public health emergency occurs.

Who can register with Illinois Helps?

Illinois Helps is a database for ALL health care professionals. This includes licensed/independent practitioners; inactive or retired practitioners with an active license; and students enrolled in a health-related curriculum. There is also a great need for non-medical and administrative volunteers within the *Illinois Helps* system. The following health care professionals are encouraged to register with *Illinois Helps*:

- Registered Nurses (e.g. RNs, CRNAs, APRNs)
- Physicians (M.D.s and D.O.s)
- Physician Assistants
- Respiratory Therapists
- Pharmacists
- Psychologists
- Clinical Social Workers
- Mental Health Counselors
- Emergency Medical Technicians/Paramedics
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Radiology Technologists and Technicians
- Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians
- And many more...

REGISTER TODAY...
VOLUNTEER TOMORROW

WWW.ILLINOISHELPS.NET

ILLINOIS HELPS...

ESTABLISHES a standardized, medical provider registry

CONNECTS health care professionals who wish to volunteer in the event of a disaster or public health emergency

PRE-REGISTERS health care professionals online

VERIFIES the credentials of qualified volunteers via a statewide secure database sponsored by the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Chicago Department of Public Health and the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council

ENSURES that health care volunteers are matched with their professional competencies

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Once you have registered to become a volunteer, your professional credentials will be verified and your information will become part of the statewide secure database.

Illinois Helps may only be activated by the Director, Illinois Department of Public Health, the Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health or their designees in the event of an emergency.

Upon activation, an alert message will be sent to *Illinois Helps* volunteers depending on the size, type, location, and specific needs of the incident - asking those available to respond and giving specific instructions on where to report and what is needed.

