

# Colorado

...a healthy place to live, work, play

## Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer *for medical and public health professionals*

- ***What is the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer?***

Colorado is building a public health and medical volunteer system to enhance the state's ability to respond and recover from all types of emergencies. The Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer, or CVM, improves the state's ability to manage the many nurses, physicians, respiratory therapists, dentists, pharmacists and mental health counselors that could be needed for both planned community events and public health emergencies. CVM makes Colorado better prepared to respond to emergencies here at home, and to support surrounding states, if needed, through mutual aid and assistance agreements.



- ***Who operates the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer?***

The electronic system is managed by the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and coordinated with local public health agencies, as well as state and local emergency management officials. The state health department provides training courses, license and certification verification, database management assistance and guidance for hospitals on the use of volunteers.

- ***Who recruits volunteers for the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer?***

Recruiting volunteers is a job that local and state public health, emergency management and health care providers can do together. While each community is involved in generating interest among their own area's health and medical staff, state health department representatives are helping local agencies with presentations for prospective volunteers.

- ***What happens when a county requests mutual aid?***

The state health department can activate the system at the state level and collect the information needed to meet the county request by notifying and activating available volunteers. Local administrators do not need to make multiple phone calls to surrounding counties.

- ***How will volunteers be notified or activated?***

The Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer can be used by local health department officials to notify volunteers of related community events or to activate volunteers needed during a mass casualty incident or other public health emergency.



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

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- ***How is the CVM notification system different than the Health Alert Network, or HAN?***  
The Health Alert Network is for emergency notifications to public health agencies, hospitals, clinics and medical providers. The HAN is **not** used to notify or activate volunteers.
- ***Who will have access to the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer?***  
State and local public health officials and the local emergency managers in Colorado will have access, depending on which agency is responsible for the coordination of volunteers. County and city emergency managers, public health departments, public health nursing agencies and Medical Reserve Corps coordinators may be assigned administrative access in their roles as lead agencies.
- ***Do local administrators have access to volunteers outside of their county or jurisdiction?***  
Local emergency managers and public health officials can access information and activate volunteers who live within their jurisdiction for local or regional incidents as needed.
- ***Do CVM administrators manage the volunteers' information?***  
Volunteers register themselves online and enter contact information, license renewals and certifications directly. Volunteers keep their own information up-to-date.
- ***Will there be training on how to use the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer?***  
The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment schedules local administrator trainings as needed.
- ***Will there be training for volunteers?***  
There are many free, online incident command and FEMA trainings for volunteers. Volunteers who have not completed required training or obtained recommended vaccinations may not be called upon during an emergency activation. See [www.training.fema.gov](http://www.training.fema.gov) for training details.
- ***Which trainings are recommended for volunteers?***  
Each volunteer is required to take Incident Command System 100 and 700. Both courses are free and available online at [www.training.fema.gov](http://www.training.fema.gov).
- ***Are local agencies required to use the system?***  
Participation in the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer is voluntary.
- ***How is the volunteer system related to the Medical Reserve Corps?***  
While the Medical Reserve Corps units are groups of volunteers, the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer is a management tool to coordinate those groups. The statewide system includes public health and medical volunteers, both within the Medical Reserve Corps and those who are not part of a Corps unit. Medical Reserve Corps volunteers continue to work in their communities for both planned and emergency events. Medical Reserve Corps volunteers are encouraged to register in the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer, which serves as a tool to call upon needed volunteers anywhere in the state. The volunteer system allows communities throughout Colorado to support each other with these essential resources. Colorado volunteers who register with the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer may choose to be part of a Medical Reserve Corps unit, or to register as an individual volunteer within the system.
- ***How do volunteers register for the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer?***  
New volunteers may register at <https://covolunteers.state.co.us>. For information on the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer, email [koral.obrien@gmail.com](mailto:koral.obrien@gmail.com).

## **For More Information**

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