



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

April 9, 2020

ALTSA: AFH #2020-015  
ALTSA: ALF #2020-017  
ALTSA: CCRSS #2020-012  
ALTSA: ESF #2020-012  
ALTSA: ICF/IID #2020-012  
ALTSA: NH #2020-018

**EMERGENCY VOLUNTEER HEALTH PRACTITIONER (CHAPTER 70.15 RCW)**

Dear Provider/Administrator/Superintendent:

Since 2018 when the Legislature passed Chapter 70.15 RCW, Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act, the COVID-19 pandemic is the first time this program has been implemented.

The Department of Health website about the program can be found [here](#). A few highlights include:

1. Individual health care provider applicants now register online, instead of using a paper application. Instructions to complete the online registration are available [here](#).
2. New information for healthcare facilities, including long-term care facilities:
  - a. Facilities who want to request approved volunteers, or want to request to activate specific staff under this program as part of their own surge planning, need to complete a [healthcare facilities request form](#). This information is necessary to quickly support each request.
  - b. The Department of Health currently has more than 700 approved volunteers who are eligible to be placed.
  - c. Facilities requesting to activate specific volunteers should [complete this spreadsheet](#). Please be sure all fields are complete as they are all required to complete the process. Please do not include any additional fields beyond information on additional licenses a volunteer has.
3. The frequently asked questions (FAQ) have also been updated and divided into questions for [volunteers](#) and questions for [healthcare facilities](#).

The Department of Health has received questions about their authority under chapter 70.15.030 RCW to regulate coordination of volunteers and how that intersects with facility and health system surge staffing. The Department of Health has broad authority for volunteers activated under this program that includes where they work, for how long, and what types of providers may volunteer.

The benefits to all are that the state provides worker's compensation coverage to the registered volunteer health care providers and those health care providers are provided immunity from liability while acting as part of the State's emergency response (except for willful and wanton misconduct or gross negligence). Volunteer health care providers can also decline an assignment.

Dear Provider/Administrator/Superintendent  
April 9, 2020  
Page 2

The Department of Health's **current priority** is supporting health systems and facilities with their own staffing surge plans. Health systems or facilities can make a request to have approved volunteers activated for their specific needs. The Department of Health is also working to support requests for healthcare facilities that need volunteers to ensure adequate staffing.

Thank you again for your leadership and support as we work together to support residents in Washington during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"