



Memorandum

Date: April 13, 2020
To: Wisconsin Health Care Providers
From: Dawn B. Crim, Secretary-designee
RE: Wisconsin COVID-19 Response Volunteer Registry

As the [COVID-19 public health emergency](#) evolves, the state continues to work to curb the spread of disease and to prepare to treat or isolate the sick. We believe our efforts—including the [Safer at Home order](#) and social distancing guidelines, along with increased testing—are making a difference and are slowing the rate of exposure. Yet we still expect the number of Wisconsinites infected with COVID-19 to increase in the coming weeks, which could create a surge of patients in certain areas.

Our top priority is to make sure there are enough resources to care for the growing number of people who require hospitalization or other health care interventions because of this pandemic. As you may have heard, the state is establishing an alternate care facility at the Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis. Another one could be housed at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison.

The facilities are only part of the equation. Each facility will need to be staffed with a wide range of health care providers. Also, hospitals and clinics elsewhere in the state may need to augment staffs as demand increases. Expanding our provider pool is key to an effective response.

If you are interested in and able to be a part of the COVID-19 response team, you can sign up to volunteer through the [Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry](#). Help is needed in both clinical and non-clinical support roles. However, we especially need licensed professionals to volunteer for critical clinical roles. These include the following:

- Physicians;
- Physician assistants;
- Nurses;
- Nurse practitioners;
- Certified nursing assistants;
- Social workers;
- Pharmacists;
- Pharmacy technicians;
- Physical therapists;
- Physical therapy assistants;
- Respiratory therapists, and;
- Behavioral health professionals.

We have already made other changes to help grow and strengthen our health care workforce, such as expanding telehealth services, making it easier for retired health care workers to rejoin the workforce, and allowing out-of-state health care professionals to practice in Wisconsin (please visit our [homepage](#) for more information on these actions). Additional volunteers will play a critical role in ensuring that we have the resources and flexibility to respond to our state and local needs.