

**Cass County Health Department Adopts New Volunteer Management Program**

Many Americans rely and expect a strong public health system that is capable of meeting the needs of our community in the time of an emergency. The emergency might be man-made, weather related, or an infectious disease. Whatever the cause of the emergency, it is important to have pre-registered and pre-credentialed volunteers to assist the Cass County Health Department respond to the needs of the community during times of disaster.

At the time of an event or disaster, volunteers are critical to saving lives and it will take an immense amount of volunteers to meet the needs of the community. From registration clerks and greeters, to doctors, nurses, and pharmacists; everyone is needed when it comes to emergency response. Across the nation, recent experience has shown us how valuable volunteers are and the need for an effective volunteer management system. In order to effectively utilize volunteers, the Cass County Health Department has elected to take part in the SERV-IN program (State Emergency Registry of Volunteer for Indiana). SERV-IN is an electronic registration system and database of local, regional and statewide volunteers who want to assist our public health and healthcare systems during an event or disaster. It allows for the pre-registration of volunteers and identification of skills prior to a disaster or event. Registration on SERV-IN does not obligate you to serve during an event. However, if an event, requiring volunteer assistance occurs, Cass County public health officials will use SERV-IN to generate a list of potential volunteers. SERV-IN volunteers will be contacted and given the opportunity to accept or decline service. The Cass County Health Department says that, "Pre-registration of potential volunteers enhances the ability of the Cass County Health Department to quickly and effectively respond to an emergency event." They encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering during a public health emergency to register on SERV-IN. Both medical and non-medical volunteers are needed. Registering is as simple as logging onto [www.serv-in.org](http://www.serv-in.org) and entering the information requested. The registration process is easy and should only take a few moments of your time. After the initial registration, you can log back in and add more information or update your volunteer profile.

**SERV-IN Registration Steps**

1. Visit [www.serv-in.org](http://www.serv-in.org). Click on "Register Now"
2. Complete online application. License and contact information will be needed in order to complete the registration process. Your status will be pending until you are accepted by the Cass County Health Department
3. A representative from the Cass County Health Department may contact you, if additional information is needed.

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