



**Health and Human Services**  
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## **Lake County Volunteers Needed to Help in the Fight Against COVID-19**

April 1, 2020 – Lake County Health and Human Services (HHS) wants to establish a large pool of volunteers that are willing to help in the fight against COVID-19. Health and Human Services Director Lisa Hanson said, “There are things that we can do now to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and being prepared to mobilize volunteers quickly if it becomes necessary is one of those things.”

HHS, along with local non-profit and healthcare partners including Lake View Hospital and Medical Clinic, anticipate that volunteers will be needed for a variety of tasks related to slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Lake County. Volunteers may be needed to do everything from shopping and delivering groceries and medications to the doorstep of someone in isolation/quarantine to providing support to health care facilities. Accordingly, everyone that has a desire to help is encouraged to sign up regardless of whether they have medical training or experience.

HHS is working hand-in-hand with Community Partners, North Shore Area Partners, and Northwoods Partners who already have well-established volunteer pools, but limited service areas. HHS wants to have volunteers available in all geographic areas of our large county. Volunteers that are already registered with Community Partners, North Shore Area Partners, or Northwoods Partners that have any kind of medical training or experience are asked to sign up with MN Responds as well.

HHS will be using the Minnesota Responds system to register volunteers. Minnesota Responds integrates and engages local, regional, and statewide volunteer programs to strengthen public health and health care response. The Minnesota Responds tool allows local public health to pre-register, manage and mobilize volunteers before an emergency hits to help their communities respond to all types of incidents.

“Residents in Lake County are already helping each other in so many ways,” according to Lake County Emergency Manager BJ Kohlstedt. “Minnesota Responds enhances these efforts during emergencies by allowing us to recruit and communicate with a lot of volunteers at once.”

To register, visit [mnresponds.org](https://mnresponds.org) and follow the prompts to join the “NE MN Responds Unit/Lake County Program.” You only need to fill out the questions on the first page that ask for contact information and your occupation. If you have special skills or training, please put that in the comments section. Registration takes only a few minutes. If and when activation becomes necessary, you will be contacted to determine availability. You are never required to do anything unless you are available and comfortable about responding. Lake County, MDH, and local partners will have access to your information, but will not share it without your permission. A great list of frequently asked questions about Minnesota Responds can be found at [mnresponds.org/faq.php](https://mnresponds.org/faq.php).

Please sign up! While the effort to build up a pool of volunteers is in response to the pandemic, the list will be valuable for years to come. If you’d rather register by phone, please call the Silver Bay Service Center at 218-226-4443. Thank you!

Contact: Public Health Supervisor, Tracy Gilsvik at 218-834-8406