



ULSTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

239 Golden Hill Lane, Kingston, NY 12401-6441, (845) 340-3150, Fax (845) 334-8337

MICHAEL P. HEIN

County Executive

CAROL M. SMITH, MD, MPH

Commissioner of Health

June 10, 2015

Dear Health Care Provider,

As Commissioner of Health and Mental Health for Ulster County, I am writing to seek recruits for the Ulster County Department of Health- ServNY Volunteer Program. Individuals in this program will be members of an emergency response team which will become activated during a public health emergency. This program is being managed through the UCDOH- Public Health Preparedness Program, and the NY State Department of Health (NYSDOH) - ServNY Program.

The ServNY Program is a registry for skilled health care and mental health providers who want to volunteer to respond in our county/state should a major disaster or local public health emergency occur. Your assistance as a volunteer will help ensure that our county/state residents, affected by a disaster, will receive the care they need. Emergencies might include hurricanes or other severe weather events, natural disease outbreaks, terrorism, or major accidents with mass casualties. Volunteers may be called upon to dispense medications and vaccinations, treat evacuees in an emergency shelter, augment healthcare facility staff, or assist in other ways.

Registering simply informs the ServNY Preparedness Program that you are open to the possibility of volunteering in case of an emergency. It does not commit you to respond to every emergency.

When volunteers are needed, an alert message will be sent via phone and email to all ServNY members – or a limited pool of members depending on the specific need of the incident – asking for volunteers to indicate their ability to respond. Those volunteers who respond to the request, and are selected, will then be given specific instructions.

A volunteer who is registered in ServNY and who is authorized to act by the NYSDOH during an emergency will be afforded the benefits provided by Public Officers Law §17, which provides defense and indemnification. Personal registration information will be maintained within a central, secure database administered by the NYSDOH.

The Ulster County DOH Public Health Preparedness Program will conduct training exercises for interested volunteers. Much of the training is simple and can be completed on line. ServNY is working with partner agencies to gain continuing education credits for completion of the required training.

The ServNY Volunteer Program in Ulster County will be managed by Ann Smoller, RN, Supervising Public Health Nurse, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, and Diane Aznoe, M.Ed our Public Health Preparedness Education Coordinator.

We understand that it will not be possible for every team member to respond in every situation. However, we would appreciate whatever time you are able to devote to this community service program. If you would like additional information about this program please go to:

www.co.ulster.ny.us/health or call (845) 334-5538

ServNY@health.state.ny.us or call (518) 408-5163

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol M. Smith MD MPH". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carol M. Smith, MD. MPH
Commissioner of Health and Mental Health