

Engaging the Pharmacist Workforce to Address the COVID-19 Crisis

Pharmacists are essential health care providers who serve a critical role by providing care for patients in their communities. All health care providers, including pharmacists, continue to be needed during this crisis. Opportunities for pharmacists are available via in-person or virtual formats to assist local communities or neighboring states. Pharmacists can provide a range of services, including dispensing, special packaging, testing, public education, public health, and health care outreach. APhA encourages the pharmacist workforce to participate in such opportunities during this public health crisis.

Note: This information, like so much these days, is changing rapidly. Please be sure to check the individual sites below for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Where do you find information on becoming engaged?

Pharmacy organizations: APhA is [seeking pharmacist volunteers](#) who possess the skills to evaluate learners for testing and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Volunteer information will be shared with partners who are standing up testing sites. Additionally, a select number of state pharmacists' associations and/or boards of pharmacy have provided opportunities to volunteer. To learn more, pharmacists can refer to their respective state associations through the [National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations](#) or the [National Association of Boards of Pharmacy](#).

Federal agencies: [The Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals](#) has a system for individuals to sign up in the states of their choice. Volunteers are categorized by levels based on their professional experience.

State-based opportunities: The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) has created an interactive map that lists [COVID-19 Emergency Health Care Response Volunteer Requests by State](#), which includes opportunities for all health care volunteers—not only nurse practitioners. Click on your state of interest to be directed to known opportunities.

Volunteer-based organizations: Volunteer with the [Medical Reserve Corps](#) individually or with a unit. Pharmacists can work with their respective state and local public health departments to care for patients in their community. Additionally, [the American Red Cross has ongoing volunteer opportunities](#).



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How do you obtain authority to practice pharmacy in another state where you are not currently licensed during this crisis?

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) has created the [NABP Passport](#), which is a temporary authorization that facilitates/allows pharmacists and pharmacy technicians practicing in another state to be efficiently granted temporary or emergency licensure. Check out the [Frequently Asked Questions for the NABP Passport](#) to discover how pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can obtain a temporary authorization to practice in another state. Pharmacists should check with the individual state where they intend to practice for specific guidance and direction.

What opportunities are available for Community Pharmacy Enhanced Services Network (CPESN) pharmacies to have student pharmacist volunteers during the COVID-19 crisis?

During COVID-19, CPESN USA and the [Academia-CPESN Transformation \(ACT\) Pharmacy Collaborative](#) are pairing interested student pharmacists with participating CPESN pharmacies to assist during the crisis. Interested community pharmacies in the CPESN network can request assistance through the [COVID-19 Request for Student Pharmacists](#).

How can additional opportunities be shared with us?

The information provided in this resource is by no means complete or comprehensive. Additional opportunities for the pharmacist workforce may be available. If you are aware of additional opportunities, please email [Meg Freiter](#) and consider sharing the information on APhA's [Pharmacy's Response to COVID-19](#) online ENGAGE community.



***Disclaimer:** Information related to the COVID-19 pandemic is changing rapidly. The material and information contained in this publication is believed to be current as of the date included on this document. The American Pharmacists Association assumes no responsibility for the accuracy, timeliness, errors or omission contained herein. Links to any sources do not constitute any endorsement of, validity, or warranty of the information contained on any site. The user of these materials should not under any circumstances solely rely on, or act based on this publication. Pharmacy professionals retain the responsibility for using their own professional judgment and practicing in accordance with all rules, regulations, and laws governing the pharmacy practice within their jurisdiction.*

