

[News and Hot Topics](#) » Supporting Volunteer Efforts During  
Coronavirus

# Supporting Volunteer Efforts During Coronavirus

By [Betsy McFarland](#)

May  
2020

Our thoughts are with every company and organization dealing with COVID-19 as information changes minute-to-minute. We are diligently working to compile a list of resources to help leaders of volunteers deal with this quickly evolving situation and we need YOUR help! We have started the list below.



## Share Your Resources

If you have sample communications, tips, trainings, or other resources you are using, please share them through our **Coronavirus Response form** (*no longer available*). If you have seen resources from others that you find helpful, let us know so we can share those too. We would love any and all suggestions.

## Resource Directory

### [Coronavirus Response Seminar from Energize](#)

### [Live Events and Free Classes](#)

*No longer posting*

### [Public Health Resources](#)

- [World Health Organization](#)

- [US Centers for Disease Control](#)
- [Australian Government Dept of Health](#)
- [UK Department of Health and Social Care](#)
- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

## Resources from Volunteer Centers, Associations, and Others

- [Volunteer Engagement Covid-19 Response Guide and Tool Kit](#) from the Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration (MAVA)
- Volunteering New Zealand has a new [Resources page, including Pandemic and Virtual Volunteering resources](#).
- [Managing Virtual Volunteering During the Corona Pandemic](#) from the Israeli Volunteering Council
- A Checklist to Help Keep Volunteers Safe -- the Do's and Dont's of Volunteering During the Pandemic, from The Israeli Volunteering Council
- [Checklist for Volunteering Using Virtual Channels](#), from The Israeli Volunteering Council
- [Infographic Report on the Impact of Coronavirus on Volunteer Management and How Coordinators have Adjusted to Engage Volunteers Remotely](#), from Track It Forward
- [Keeping Volunteers Safe poster](#) from California Volunteers
- [How Volunteer Managers Can Respond to COVID-19](#) from VolunteerHub
- [Volunteering Australia](#) has published the two following policy position papers in order to clearly articulate their position around a number of issues regarding COVID-19 and the volunteering sector:
  - [Volunteering and National Policy Settings](#)
  - [Safeguarding Volunteers and Volunteer Involving Organisations](#)
- VolunteerMatch created a [resource center](#) dedicated to volunteering and public service
- [Catchafire](#) offers an active virtual volunteer pool who can assist with time-sensitive requests and have shared examples of how a few organizations are already taking action
- Volunteer Ireland shared [practical advice and guidance to help organisations and members of the public wishing to volunteer](#)
- Tips from the Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration on [Preparing Your Volunteer Program for COVID-19](#)

- Spark the Change Colorado offers [Tips to Stay Healthy While Volunteering](#) (no longer available)
- Information from the Northwest Oregon Volunteer Administrators Association to [help its members navigate the impacts on programs and volunteers](#)
- American Association for Museum Volunteers (AAMV): "[Here are some things you can do as a volunteer manager during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)"
- Imagine Canada [shares resources and an advocacy letter to the Canadian Government](#).

## Volunteer Engagement Blogs

- [What to Say, What to Send: Strategic Communications to Volunteers Amid the Pandemic](#), by VQ Volunteer Strategies
- [How to Engage Online Volunteers During COVID-19](#), by VolunteerPro
- [Building a Sense of Volunteer Community During COVID-19](#), by VolunteerPro
- [Volunteer Engagement Plan for COVID-19 Response](#), a blog and template for any organization to use to develop a volunteer engagement plan in response to COVID-19, from VQ Volunteer Strategies
- [How to \(Quickly\) Mobilize Volunteers to Maximize Nonprofit Fundraising During COVID-19](#), by Breakthrough Fundraising Group
- [Coronavirus & Volunteers: Your Guide for Managing Uncertainty](#), by VolunteerPro
- [Volunteer Engagement Amid a Pandemic](#), by VQ Volunteer Strategies

## Examples of How Organizations Are Responding

- The City of Fort Collins, CO, created [a dedicated website to help the community volunteer in response to COVID-19](#)
- [Sample Operations Plan and Messaging](#) from HandsOn Sacramento
- The Eden Project Communities in the UK, along with partners, launched this creative community action project to encourage informal volunteering to support people in communities effected by coronavirus: [Community Action Response: Covid-19](#) (no longer available)

## Taking Care of Yourself and Your Volunteers

- The Mental Health Foundation of Scotland provides helpful tips in [Looking After Your Mental Health During the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
- [Coronavirus advice for volunteers - Third Force News](#)

- [Coronavirus & Volunteers: Your Guide for Managing Uncertainty](#)
- [We are Human, too | volunteerplintalk](#)

## Leveraging Technology

- Energize has a book on [Virtual Volunteering](#)
- [Tutorial on how to use Zoom](#)
- [WiredImpact](#) offers resources for planning online events and how to manage work from home.
- The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) robust database of online volunteer opportunities allows organizations and volunteers to team up to address challenges – anywhere in the world, from any device.
- [6 Strategies for Digital Learning Success](#), by the Center for Creative Leadership
- TechSoup offers [Nonprofit Resources for Remote Work During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- *No longer available* - Preparing for Emergency Online Teaching by The Chronicle of Higher Education
- The following videoconferencing companies are offering free use of their tools in response to coronavirus:
  - [BlueJeans](#): First responders and NGOs may have organization-wide access to BlueJeans for an initial period of 90 days, and BlueJeans may extend that term as needed.
  - [Cisco Webex](#) is offering unlimited usage (no time restrictions) for up to 100 participants
  - [Zoom](#) is proactively lifting the 40-minute meeting limit on free Basic accounts for schools

## Mitigating Risk

- **Coronavirus: What does my nonprofit's insurance cover?**, by California Association of Nonprofits

## General Nonprofit & Volunteer-Related Resources

- [Coronavirus/COVID-19 Resource Guide](#) from the Association of Fundraising Professionals
- [Resources to help nonprofits adapt and respond to COVID-19](#) from the Ontario Nonprofit Network in Canada
- [Nonprofit HR Coronavirus Digital Information Portal](#): Information, Resources, and Evolving News for Social Impact Organization Strategies and Planning
- Points of Light offers ideas for [Employee Volunteering When You Can't Serve In-Person](#)
- The Corporation for National & Community Service has created a (no longer available) FAQ for Americorps, Senior Corps, and other programs

- [Responding to the Coronavirus Outbreak: Resources to Help Nonprofits](#) by The Chronicle of Philanthropy
- The National Council of Nonprofits led the effort to create this [widely supported community letter encouraging inclusion of nonprofits in the COVID-19 relief package](#)
- United Nations Volunteers (UNV) developed [Information for UN Volunteers and candidates](#)

## Resources by Organizational Mission

### Animal Welfare Organizations:

- Maddie's Fund has produced resources for setting up emergency (volunteer-based) fostering for shelter pets
- The Humane Society of the United States and The Association of Animal Welfare Administrators created a [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Shelter Kit for Animal Shelters](#) that includes sample documents for expediting foster care volunteering. The Pima Animal Care Center shared a [letter they sent to all volunteers](#).
- The Humane Rescue Alliance in Washington, DC, [sent out this series of emails to all volunteers](#) after a staff members was determined to have been exposed to the virus

### Faith Based Organizations:

- Repair the World and Amplifier produced this resource for community members seeking to help others: All People Are Responsible For One Another: A Resource on Caring for the Sick in Times of Crisis
- From the CDC: Get Your Community- and Faith-Based Organizations Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 [No longer available]

### Food Banks:

- Our Response to COVID-19 and FAQ<>, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (no longer available)

Related Topics: [Emergency Services/First Responders](#) | [Healthcare and Hospice](#) | [Older Volunteers](#)

## Comments from Readers

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*Submitted on March 17th, 2020*

*Gerald (Jerry) ..., independent contractor, self employed, NY, United States*

Thanks for posting this information. NYAVA has shared it on their Facebook Page as of yesterday and I shared in my blog post yesterday as well (my posts are shared on LinkedIn). Keep up the good work!

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*Submitted on April 17th, 2020*

*Betsy McFarland, Energize, Maryland, USA*

Thanks so much, Jerry! We are pleased to hear you're finding this information useful.

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*Submitted on April 1st, 2020*

*Sue Carter Kahl, Sue Carter Kahl Consulting, San Diego, United States*

Thanks for curating resources in one convenient location! Thanks also to those developing content and hosting conversations and training! I'm sharing them with my local networks.

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*Submitted on April 17th, 2020*

*Betsy McFarland, Energize, Maryland, USA*

Thanks Sue! We appreciate your sharing it and helping to add more resources to the list!

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*Submitted on April 22nd, 2020*

*Jayne Cravens, <http://www.coyotecom munications.com>, Portland, United States*

In addition to The Last Virtual Volunteering Guidebook, which offers essential information for organizations moving their volunteer engagement online and is available in paperback from here:

<http://www.coyotecom munications.com/vvbook.shtml> and electronic form here:

[http://www.energizeinc.com/store/last\\_virtual\\_volunteering\\_guidebook](http://www.energizeinc.com/store/last_virtual_volunteering_guidebook)

I have a blog on roles and activities volunteering-involving programs can launch RIGHT NOW for online volunteers.

<http://coyotecom munications.com/coyoteblog/2020/03/never-a-better-time-t...>

Also, I give my permission for anyone to show my training videos, freely available at my YouTube Channel, at a workshop, conference or class related to volunteer management, volunteerism, or nonprofit/NGO/charity management.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLINg8P50qEaMMv\\_TyEzgQuJAT-M8Ja50Q](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLINg8P50qEaMMv_TyEzgQuJAT-M8Ja50Q)

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