



Dear NCCR Volunteers:

During this difficult, uncertain, and stressful time, I wanted to reach out to you — our amazing regional volunteers — to express my hope that this finds you all healthy, safe, and warm in your home as we settle into our new "shelter in place" routine. Speaking personally, it has brought me great comfort to know that I am part of an organization that, because of your amazing efforts, makes such a difference in the lives of so many. Thank you so much for all you do.

Because of the current circumstances, many of you have — very understandably — curtailed some or all of your usual Red Cross activities. And a number of our community interactions have been affected by national, state, and local health orders. But I am also very proud of what — out of necessity — we have continued to try our best to do during recent weeks:

- We have been in constant communication with our partners, emergency managers, and government leaders throughout this crisis. We have helped fill gaps in service, responded to special requests for support, and created bridges to resources we have been unable to provide.
- We have worked tirelessly to get badly needed blood drives rescheduled and staffed after so many were cancelled during the early days and weeks of this crisis. And many of you have also donated blood during these drives, or have appointments scheduled. Blood donations have remained an essential national function, and our centers and drives will continue to operate using enhanced screening procedures. So, if you can, please support these activities by volunteering. And if you can give, please go to redcrossblood.org to find and make a reservation at a drive near you.
- We have continued to support individuals and families affected by home fires and other personal disasters. We have adjusted our policies and procedures, and our volunteers have begun responding virtually as much as possible. And we're also preparing and training our teams to respond to any large-scale disasters in this environment.
- We have also continued to support our military members, families, and veterans, providing emergency communications and other support.

If you've been able to support any of these activities, please know how grateful we are for whatever you have been able to do. If you haven't been able to help during this challenging time, please also know that we very much understand! (In case it's helpful for you, I also want you to know that a number of virtual tasks are listed on this national [Volunteer Opportunities](#) site.)

I also want to encourage you to stay informed during this crisis, as there is a lot of information out there on the coronavirus and it seems to be changing daily. So please take a minute to review the stories, resources, and links that are included in this newsletter. We also now have a single page on redcross.org with information related to staying safe and helping others during this outbreak: redcross.org/coronavirus.

In closing, please permit me to say again just how very grateful I am for the critical support that is provided to our communities by our regional volunteers. Please take good care of yourselves and connect with us as you are able!

Warmly,

Jennifer Adrio
Regional CEO, Northern California Coastal Region
American Red Cross