



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO Box 47890 | Olympia, Washington 98504-7890
Tel: 360-236-4030 | 711 Washington State Relay

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Re: Informative- Update on the Status of the State Emergency Medical Reserve Corps (SEMRC)

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we want to provide an important update concerning the future of the State Emergency Medical Reserve Corps (SEMRC). During the most recent state budget process, the SEMRC was not included for continued funding. The demobilization process will continue over the coming months, with the SEMRC's day-to-day program operations set to end on November 15, 2025.

The SEMRC was created by the Legislature in 2023 through SHB 1452, the State Emergency Medical Reserve Corps Act ([RCW 70.410](#)), to fill gaps in emergency preparedness where local Medical Reserve Corps programs could not reach. In just over a year, the SEMRC organized 190 vetted volunteers into functional and regional teams, credentialed them through WAserv, and established protocols for deployment during public health emergencies such as outbreaks, disasters, or bioterrorism events. SEMRC volunteers already rostered in WAserv will remain in the database and available to support other volunteer management programs that use WAserv for credentialing. They will be notified that SEMRC is being demobilized, placed into inactive status, and derostered from the SEMRC program.

While DOH will no longer be able to directly manage mobilization of clinical volunteers in the same way, we will continue to sustain support by facilitating jurisdictional mutual aid requests, ensuring that trained volunteers remain accessible through WAserv, and upholding our commitment to collaboration in other areas of public health. We want to emphasize that Tribal Nations will not be left without a path to request and receive volunteer assistance, even though the structure created through SEMRC will no longer be in place. Although this demobilization of the SEMRC program eliminates active development and maintenance, it does not eliminate the internal structures, protocols, or authorizing authority in [RCW 70.410](#) for the program.

For additional information, please contact Cory Portner, Director, Office of Emergency Medical Logistics, cory.portner@doh.wa.gov, (360) 790-8454 or Candice Wilson, Executive Director, Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate Weed", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Nate Weed
Chief of Resilience

cc: Dennis E. Worsham, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson–Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH
Nathan Weed, Chief of Resiliency, Office of Resiliency and Health Security, WA-DOH