

HISTORY OF THE BATTLE BORN STATEWIDE VOLUNTEER POOL

CREATION & LIFE-CYCLE OF BATTLE BORN MEDICAL CORPS

In late March of 2020, the Battle Born Medical Corps (BBMC) was created as part of Nevada's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his Declaration of Emergency authority, then-Governor Steve Sisolak issued Emergency Directive 011 on March 12, 2020, to address the rapidly escalating public health crisis. This directive was designed to expand Nevada's healthcare workforce by temporarily waiving certain licensing requirements.

The purpose of Directive 011 was to relieve overwhelmed hospitals and long-term care (LTC) facilities, mobilize emergency staffing for COVID-19 response, create a centralized, vetted pool of medical volunteers, and enable rapid deployment across the state.

This opened up the opportunity for healthcare professionals who were recently retired with their license lapsed, but still in good standing or students who were still in school for a medical profession, essentially allowing 'training and experience' as a qualifying requirement. This also allowed for current out-of-state licensed professionals to provide services under this directive.

Nevada was already utilizing the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers – Nevada (SERV-NV) platform where it housed Medical Reserve Corps units and the Statewide Volunteer Pool (SVP), which comprised of both medical and non-medical volunteers. The SERV-NV platform provided the necessary means to create the Battle Born Medical Corps.

Once the BBMC was established, within the first week an explosion of healthcare professional signups occurred and over the next month more than 3,000 individuals signed up. This included doctors, nurses, EMTs, dentists, pharmacists, behavioral health professionals, medical/nursing students, retirees with a medical background, and more.

Over the course of the next two years, the BBMC operated as Nevada's temporary medical surge corps, supporting facilities statewide. Every request and deployment was documented.

On May 5, 2022, Emergency Directive 011 ended and with it the legal authority that granted the BBMC to bypass standard credentialing and licensing requirements. Medical volunteers were no longer able to serve unless they held a valid Nevada credential, and facilities could no longer request BBMC support under emergency provisions.

The BBMC was placed into Operations sunset, (a formal winding down of BBMC as an active, standalone entity.) No new deployments were made under the BBMC name and existing BBMC volunteers were either deactivated or transitioned into standard volunteer roles.

While the BBMC was sunset, the need for coordinated volunteer support remained. Agencies still needed a way to request vetted volunteers statewide, but the BBMC framework was no longer legally active. After the directive ended, the Nevada public health and emergency management teams began strategic planning to consolidate BBMC's strengths into a more sustainable model. This led to the merger with the Statewide Volunteer Pool.

Over the course of nine months, volunteers that were within the BBMC were re-vetted and reassigned where licensures / certifications were concerned. Some accounts were deactivated due to incomplete profile, or for out of state volunteers who had gone home. Once this re-vetting process was complete, volunteers within the BBMC and the SVP were transferred to the newly established infrastructure.

THE BIRTH OF BATTLE BORN STATEWIDE VOLUNTEER POOL

On February 7, 2023, the formal announcement was made, signaling the operational integration of BBMC into a broader volunteer structure. The Battle Born name continues to symbolize resilience in times of crisis, unity across Nevada's diverse regions, services beyond emergencies – into long-term community health and preparedness. Battle Born Medical Corps was rebranded to Battle Born Statewide Volunteers (BBSV) to emphasize statewide mobilization and to continue to reflect Nevada's civic identity.

BBSV continues to operate through SERV-NV, Nevada's secure volunteer registry platform. This centralized system ensures audit-readiness and rapid mobilization. Unlike BBMC's medical-only scope, BBSV supports a diverse range of volunteer roles, including public health outreach (e.g., vaccination clinics,), behavioral health support (e.g., crisis response), logistics support (e.g., shelter, supply distribution), and community engagement (e.g., disaster drills). This flexibility allows agencies to request volunteers for non-clinical needs as well, broadening the impact statewide.

The BBSV now serves as a multi-agency resource, supporting local health districts, emergency management offices, veterans' services, behavioral health networks, and tribal and rural health partners. BBSV now supports both planned events and emergency activations.

For planned events, agencies can request volunteers with the Battle Born Statewide Volunteer Request Form available online at <https://www.dpbh.nv.gov/programs/public-health-preparedness/serv-nv-volunteer/>. This form is available to the public to allow for outside agencies to access and request volunteers for small-scale, planned and non-emergency events. Any Volunteer request will be submitted to potential volunteers through the SERV-NV platform.

Interested volunteers are instructed to reach out to the designated contact within the original request. The *requesting entity* maintains a list of these volunteers which will be sent to the BBSV coordinator to review the volunteer's profile and re-vet, if necessary, then results are reported back to the *requesting entity*.

After the event, follow-up procedures are in place for the *requesting entity* to document whether the volunteer participated and to note any circumstances that may affect their eligibility for future deployments. This after-event documentation is sent back to the BBSV coordinator to maintain deployment logs and service records for auditing and reporting purposes, and to also be able to provide documentation of service to volunteers upon request.