DISCLAIMER: The Section for Senior Members of the AAP does not give specific legal advice. However, here are some programs available for liability coverage for volunteer work and links to more information.

1) Part time insurance (generally meaning less than a certain number of hours per week or per year, depending on the carrier and the state) is often available from malpractice insurance providers. The cost may vary but can be about half of the usual cost.

2) Malpractice insurance providers will sometimes offer coverage by special arrangement for a retiring physician for whom they have been providing full time insurance. This may not be available after one has cancelled one’s full time coverage so it would be best to inquire about this at or before retirement.

3) Many private and publically funded volunteer organizations provide appropriate liability coverage for their volunteers.

4) There is a federal program providing malpractice coverage for volunteer physicians under what is termed the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA). Below is a link to information about the program. The materials contain contact information for more information.
http://bphc.hrsa.gov/ftca/freeclinics/

5) Some states have their own medical liability programs for uncompensated care such as the Wisconsin Volunteer Health Care Provider Program, which makes one an agent of the state for liability purposes when providing uncompensated care for various non-profit or school organizations. Examples are; supervising public health immunization clinics, serving as a team physician, providing care at a community free clinic.

6) Many, perhaps most, states provide for liability coverage for health care volunteers during Governor-declared emergencies.

7) The AAP has helpful information on the aap.org website located on the Practice Support page from the Professional Resources drop-down menu.
http://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-support/Pages/Practice-Support.aspx

8) Some information about specific state rules can be found on the AMA Professional Liability page: http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/legal-topics/business-management-topics/professional-liability-insurance.page