

County of Santa Clara
Public Health Department



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS FOR DISASTER RESPONSE
FILLING THE GAP

SAN JOSE, Calif. – Nearly 400 Santa Clara County physicians, nurses and other medical professionals are volunteering to aid in disaster relief efforts. A group of these volunteers will be among the first to be sworn-in, this Friday, January 27th at 12 noon.

Medical Volunteers for Disaster Response is a network of medical professionals organized by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department and the Volunteer Center of Silicon Valley. Medical Volunteers for Disaster Response (MVDR) pre-registers medical professionals to help deliver the right volunteer resources to the right place, at the right time during a medical disaster or public health emergency.

The need for medical volunteer resources was recognized in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. Hundreds of physicians and nurses arrived in New York from areas throughout the region to aid the city. But hospitals and other health facilities were not able to effectively take advantage of this tremendous resource because they could not verify the volunteer's identity, medical credentials and skills.

MVDR addresses this issue by pre-screening and pre-registering medical professionals so that they will be able to help deliver emergency services when they are needed. MVDR will support and assist the Public Health Department in providing mass vaccinations, mass casualty care and other critical public health services during a declared disaster or public health emergency. These volunteers may be dispatched to a variety of sites including emergency public health locations, shelters, clinics and hospitals.

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“It is important for physicians and other medical professionals who are willing to volunteer in an emergency to pre-register so that they will be able to do so,” commented Bruce Lee, Emergency Medical Services Agency Director. “The people here today have already made that commitment. Their dedication, skill and willingness to help will be critical to our response during a public health emergency. They are a valuable resource, to the Public Health Department and the residents of Santa Clara County, and we thank them.”

Nurses, physicians, physician assistants and other health professionals licensed in the State of California are eligible to volunteer. To volunteer for MVDR, visit www.sccphd.org or contact the MVDR Coordinator at 408.793.2020 or mvdr@hhs.sccgov.org

Information

Swearing-In Ceremony

Friday, January 27th, 12 noon

645 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, in the Courtyard

The oath will be administered by Bruce Lee, shortly after 12 noon.

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