



News Release
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SLVHD Seeks Volunteers for H1N1 Influenza Vaccination Activities

"Be a hero: volunteer"

(Salt Lake County) – In preparation for H1N1 and seasonal influenza, the newly-launched Salt Lake Valley Medical Reserve Corps (SLVMRC) is seeking medical and non-medical volunteers who want to help support local H1N1 influenza activities and other public health emergency responses.

With both H1N1 and seasonal influenza expected to be circulating this fall, health officials anticipate the 2009-2010 flu season to be much more severe than usual. In addition to vaccinating for seasonal influenza, public health and community partners will also be managing vaccination campaigns for H1N1.

"This is a daunting task because, in addition to providing seasonal vaccine, SLVHD will need to vaccinate as many as 500,000 people with the H1N1 vaccine," says Dr. Dagmar Vitek, SLVHD Medical Officer. "We are asking our citizens to volunteer to help support the health and safety of our community."

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units are teams of local medical and public health professionals, and community members who volunteer to contribute their skills, expertise, and time to support ongoing public health initiatives and public health emergencies.

During large-scale public health emergencies, such as pandemic influenza, community volunteers may be needed to support critical public health emergency response activities, including:

- Dispensing medications and vaccinations
- Conducting health assessments
- Medical screenings
- Mental health consulting
- Health education
- Translation
- Administrative support

For the initial recruitment, the SLVMRC is particularly in need of the following medical volunteers licensed in Utah:

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- Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
- Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners
- Registered Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Physicians
- Physician Assistants

Non-medical support volunteers are also invited to apply. Anyone who is 18 years old or older, works well in stressful situations, has good customer service skills, and works well in a team is eligible to serve.

Support activities will include assisting with paperwork, greeting, directing and managing the flow of people through a medication/vaccination center, providing information about a disease or condition and providing interpretation services.

Interested citizens and disaster/emergency response volunteers are encouraged to contact the SLVHD. Volunteers will be matched to flu support opportunities based on skills, interest and availability.

More information about the Medical Reserve Corps program is available at the national Medical Reserve Corps website at www.medicalreservecorps.gov and the SLVHD MRC at www.slvhealth.org or by calling (801) 468-2424.

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