Allegany COUNTY New York

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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TO: **All Media Sources**
FROM: **Theresa K. Moore, Supervising Public Health Educator/Public Information Officer**
RE: **Roll up your sleeves and ServNY**
DATE: **August 17, 2020**

The following is a news release on "Roll up your sleeves and ServNY." The Allegany County Department of Health would like to remind residents they can sign up to help.

Please release this information as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. If you have any questions or need more information, please send the request in writing to me at mooretk@alleganyco.com or by fax at 585-268-9264.

News Release: Roll up your sleeves and ServNY

The Allegany County Department of Health would like to remind Allegany County residents you can "Roll up your sleeves and ServNY." ServNY, a volunteer management system administered by the department's Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP), is a web-based registry of individuals who make themselves available to assist on behalf of New York State during an emergency. Currently 6,546 people have volunteered to help when needed.

Health care professionals are needed. A disaster can overwhelm a community's ability to quickly provide appropriate care to victims. Volunteers are needed to help out during such times. We are living in one of those times right now with COVID-19. Licensed health care professionals willing to respond to a disaster—either locally, statewide, or across the nation—are strongly encouraged to register with ServNY. Registering *before* the need arises is important, as credentials are verified upon registration and periodically thereafter. This helps to ensure that when a community needs extra hands, those hands are qualified to provide the appropriate care. When volunteers are needed, ServNY will automatically notify potential volunteers via phone or e-mail with the information necessary for a volunteer to determine if they are ready and available for the assignment.

Established after 9/11. OHEP developed the ServNY volunteer registry in partnership with county health departments, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Medical Society of the State of New York, hospital associations, and other medical professional organizations. The registry, established in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, is currently used by all local health departments and Medical Reserve Corps for management of volunteer programs. **Allegany County will need volunteers.** COVID-19 has stressed out communities across the state including Allegany County. At some point we will have a vaccine and will need to get it out to our county residents. Medical professionals signed up on ServNY will be needed across the state, which means limited numbers for rural counties like Allegany.

Please if you can help the residents of Allegany County, sign up today. Registration in ServNY is open to any health care or mental health professional, as well as laypersons who are willing to serve in administrative or support roles during public health emergencies. To learn more and to register, go to www.health.ny.gov/ServNY."

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