

Nurses back on the job after 10-day strike

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Thousands of nurses in the East Bay and across the entire Bay Area, including Vallejo, returned to work Monday after staging a 10-day regional strike at Sutter Health hospitals.

Affected Sutter hospitals in the East Bay included San Leandro Hospital, Alta Bates-Summit Medical Center in Berkeley and Oakland, Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley and Sutter Delta in Antioch. Also affected were St. Luke's Hospital and California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, Mills-Peninsula Health Services in Burlingame and San Mateo and Sutter Solano in Vallejo.

Nurses began striking at 7 a.m. March 21 to protest understaffing, health and retirement benefits and the closing of hospitals in medically underserved areas. Sutter Health officials said the strike is about growing union membership.

No negotiations have been scheduled due to the strike, however hospital spokespeople have said the hospitals are willing to sit down and talk.

The California Nurses Association reports nearly 4,000 nurses took part in the 10-day walkout, however, hospital officials say they believe the number was about half that.

The nurses previously held two-day strikes in October and December. The nurses are represented by the California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee.