

From: jo polett
Subject: Re. CDC Request for Information on Cancer Threat
To: dreissman@cdc.gov
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2011, 1:16 PM

Dear Dr. Reissman,

WTC-impacted persons and their advocates were gratified to learn that the WTC Administrator has issued a request for information on the WTC cancer threat. We appreciate NIOSH's timely response to concerns voiced at the public hearing and in meetings earlier this month.

However, there is a significant error in the notice titled, "CDC Request for Information on WTC Cancer Threat", dated March 8, 2011. Clinical findings requested by the WTC Program Administrator from the Clinical Center of Excellence treating residents, workers, students and passersby are restricted to those persons who report that they were caught in the dust cloud on 9/11. But there is no basis to posit that WTC-exposed residents, workers, students, and passersby who report dust cloud exposure on 9/11 are at greater risk for cancer than persons who did not report dust cloud exposure but who lived, worked or attended schools in the impacted neighborhoods in the days, weeks, and months following the attack. Those persons sustained chronic exposure to smoke from the fires that were not extinguished for months and were also potentially exposed to resuspended dusts in uncleaned, or inadequately cleaned, homes, work places, and schools.

I hope you will confirm my assumption that the error was inadvertent and that NIOSH will issue a corrected notice requesting clinical findings on all persons exposed to WTC environmental contaminants who have received services from the Clinical Center of Excellence treating the population at issue.

Thank you,
Jo Polett