

# 9/11 Health Information for Health Care Providers



The World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program provides medical monitoring and treatment to eligible Survivors who were affected by the September 11th attacks in New York City (NYC). The Program also provides benefits to eligible Responders at the WTC, Pentagon, and Shanksville, PA sites.

## Could your patient be sick due to 9/11 exposures?

Many people were exposed to airborne toxins and other hazards during and after the 9/11 attacks.

This exposure has been known to aggravate, contribute to or even cause health conditions such as:

- respiratory diseases like asthma and chronic cough
- digestive disorders, such as acid reflux
- mental health conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- many cancers

For more information on covered conditions, visit [www.cdc.gov/wtc/conditions.html](http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/conditions.html)

## What you can do

Be sure to screen for these conditions and watch for symptoms such as:

- persistent cough or wheezing
- constant runny or stuffy nose
- chronic heartburn or acid reflux
- trouble sleeping, anxiety, or depression

If your patient was exposed and is either showing symptoms or diagnosed with any of the conditions above, encourage them to visit the WTC Health Program website at [www.cdc.gov/wtc/apply.html](http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/apply.html) to see eligibility criteria and how to apply.

**Please note:** To be covered by the Program, a condition must be certified by the WTC Health Program and treated through a Program-affiliated provider. The Program does not replace primary health insurance. Patients are encouraged to continue seeing their regular physician for all non-WTC-related care.

### If your patient

- went to school, worked, lived, or was otherwise present in the NYC Disaster Area on 9/11 or in the days, weeks, and months after (see Survivor eligibility map on reverse side),
- was a responder or performed rescue, recovery, clean-up, or related services at the WTC and WTC-related sites, the Pentagon, or the crash site in Shanksville, PA (see Responder eligibility map on reverse side),

### Then

- they may have been exposed to dust, debris, and other adverse conditions.

## More about the WTC Health Program

The WTC Health Program is a federal limited health care program for eligible 9/11 responders and survivors established by the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010. The Program is administered by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is authorized through 2090.

Specialized care for WTC-related health conditions is provided at no out-of-pocket cost to members through Clinical Centers of Excellence (CCEs) in the New York metropolitan area or through a Nationwide Provider Network (NPN). Care is coordinated with a member's primary health insurance.

### Today, the WTC Health Program provides thousands of members with benefits such as:

- expert care of certified WTC-related conditions by doctors who have been treating 9/11 related illnesses for many years
- monitoring exams to track health changes over time
- screenings for lung, colon, breast, and cervical cancer based on United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines
- research on treatment of covered WTC-related health conditions to ensure highest quality care
- research on emerging WTC-related health conditions

**Please note:** To certify a condition for coverage, a WTC Health Program doctor must assess patient conditions, 9/11 exposure history and confirm that **all** WTC Health Program requirements are met.



To learn more about health effects from 9/11 and treatment provided in the WTC Health Program, provider education trainings with continuing education are available at [www.cdc.gov/wtc/training.html](http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/training.html)

## 9/11-Related Financial Compensation

Your patient may also be eligible for financial compensation through the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) for a certified WTC-related health condition. The VCF is a separate program run by the Department of Justice and a WTC Health Program member is not automatically registered with the VCF. For information on VCF registration and how to file a claim, visit [www.vcf.gov](http://www.vcf.gov) or call 1-855-885-1555.

### NYC Disaster Area-Survivor Eligibility



The NYC Disaster Area includes the area of Manhattan that is south of Houston St; and any block in Brooklyn that is wholly or partially contained within a 1.5-mile radius of the former World Trade Center site.

### NYC Responder Eligibility Area



Visit [www.cdc.gov/wtc/apply.html](http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/apply.html) for detailed Responder eligibility locations and duties.