

World Trade Center Health Program Instructions for Completing WTC-3 Package Requesting Certification for Types of Cancer

Title I of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 amended the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) to establish the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program. As of October 12, 2012, over 50 types of cancer are now included on the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions covered by the WTC Health Program. Before a WTC Health Program member can receive treatment or monitoring for a type of cancer, a physician must first determine whether the type of cancer is included in the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions and whether the member's exposure to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks was substantially likely to have been a significant factor in aggravating, contributing to or causing the member's type of cancer. The PHS Act makes clear that eligibility alone does not suffice for treatment to be provided by the WTC Health Program and that an additional step of a physician's determination must be satisfied based on exposure history and the temporal sequence of symptoms.

From its outset, the WTC Health Program has been provided information to assist Clinical Centers of Excellence and Nationwide Provider Network physicians in completing the existing WTC-3 form, "New Determinations for WTC Certification." This information serves as a guide to physicians so that they can provide the Program with information needed to complete the certification process. The following instruction sheet adds to that body of information by providing specific information relevant to determining coverage for newly eligible types of cancers. A physician's request for certification is based on his or her determination that an individual's 9/11 exposure is substantially likely to be a significant factor in aggravating, contributing to, or causing the individual's condition. The WTC-3 Request Form requires the physician to complete a "narrative" (Section 3), which is a written justification documenting the individual's exposure to airborne toxins, other hazards, or adverse conditions resulting from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and that the exposure is substantially likely to be a significant factor in aggravating, contributing to, or causing the individual's condition. The expected length of the narrative can be less than one typewritten page, but not more than two pages. **Where the request is regarding a type of cancer**, the following five (5) Steps should be addressed in the narrative.

Step 1 – Specify the name of the cancer and the appropriate disease coding on the WTC-3 Form.

- Complete the table in Section 3 of the WTC-3 Form by including the name of the covered cancer under consideration for determination.

Step 2 – Specify key dates in the narrative attached to the WTC-3 Form.

- In the written narrative, indicate:
 - The date on which exposure arising from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 first began;
 - The date on which the patient was diagnosed with a covered cancer; and
 - The date treatment was initiated, if applicable.
- The date of initial cancer diagnosis means the earliest date the diagnosis is made, clinically or microscopically, by a licensed physician. The earliest acceptable date of diagnosis assumes exposure related to the terrorist attacks began on September 11, 2001.

Type of Covered Cancer	Minimum Latency Required	Earliest Acceptable Date of Diagnosis for Purposes of Determining Latency
All types of leukemia (including childhood leukemia)	0.4 years (146 days)	February 4, 2002
All types of childhood cancer (excluding leukemia)	1 year	September 11, 2002
All types of thyroid cancer	2.5 years	March 11, 2004
All types of mesothelioma	14.0 years	September 11, 2015
All other types of covered cancer (including rare cancers in adults)	4.0 years	September 11, 2005

Step 3 – Specify the duration of exposure within specific timeframe intervals.

- Using the information provided in the table below, indicate in the narrative the timeframes of the individual's 9/11 exposures and include the estimated exposure durations for each appropriate timeframe. Identify total estimated duration in hours, as appropriate.

For New York City Area sites:¹

	Relevant exposure timeframes			Estimated Total Duration
	Not present	< 1 hour	≥ 1 hour	Estimated duration in hours
September 11, 2001	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Estimated duration in hours
September 12 – 14, 2001	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Estimated duration in hours
September 15 – 30, 2001	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Estimated duration in hours
October 1, 2001 – July 31, 2002	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Estimated duration in hours

¹New York City Area sites include: (1) former World Trade Center site and areas of Lower Manhattan south of Canal Street; (2) other areas within the broader New York City Disaster Area, which is the area within New York City that is the area of Manhattan that is south of Houston Street and any block in Brooklyn that is wholly or partially contained within a 1.5-mile radius of the former World Trade Center site; (3) the Staten Island Landfill; (4) the barge loading piers; (5) the Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation Tunnel; (6) the New York City Chief Medical Examiner's Office or other sites where morgue workers performed post-September 11, 2001 functions for the Office; and (7) sites where vehicle-maintenance workers were exposed to debris from the former World Trade Center site while retrieving, cleaning, repairing, and maintaining vehicles contaminated by airborne toxins from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

For the Pentagon site:

Relevant exposure timeframe			Estimated Total Duration
September 11, 2001 – November 19, 2001	<input type="checkbox"/> Not present	<input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 4 hours	Estimated duration in hours

For the Shanksville, Pennsylvania site:

Relevant exposure timeframe			Estimated Total Duration
September 11, 2001 – October 3, 2001	<input type="checkbox"/> Not present	<input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 4 hours	Estimated duration in hours

Step 4 – Specify any special exposures and their relevant timeframes (Complete only if considering cancer of the eye and orbit or cancer of the breast.)

- For cancer of the eye and orbit, indicate in the narrative whether the individual performed welding (as opposed to metal cutting). If the individual did engage in welding, state the total duration in hours of exposure to ultraviolet light from welding.
- For cancer of the breast, please provide in the narrative answers to the following questions:
 1. Was the individual’s usual nighttime sleep pattern disrupted?
 2. If yes in #1, then during the time of sleep disruption, was the individual engaged in activities under light?
 3. Were the activities engaged in by the individual under light at night directly related to the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks at the following locations and during the following timeframes?
 - a. Between September 11, 2001 and July 31, 2002 at the New York City Area sites;
 - b. Between September 11, 2001 and November 19, 2001 at the Pentagon crash site; and/or
 - c. Between September 11, 2001 and October 3, 2001 at the crash site near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.
 4. Indicate the number of nights during each of the above timeframes and the total number of nights (by adding a+b+c) that the individual’s nighttime sleep was disturbed.

Step 5 – Specify relevant exposure activities

- Using the information provided in the table on page 4, include in the narrative each exposure activity in which the individual engaged and provide a description of the individual's exposure activity, location and timeframe. Please, also describe any other type of exposure activity not listed in the table.
- Please provide in your narrative any additional information that you believe the WTCHP should consider in certification.
- Note: The activities in the table on page 4 are grouped into Tiers. The activities within each Tier are thought to result in similar exposures. The Tiers are listed in decreasing order of exposure, with Tier 1 representing the highest exposure.

Type of Exposure Activity	Does this activity apply to the individual?
Tier 1	
(a) Caught in the dust cloud in the New York City Disaster Area on September 11, 2001	
(b) Engaged in search, rescue, recovery and/or fire or dust suppression at the former World Trade Center site, or at the Pentagon or Shanksville, Pennsylvania crash sites	
(c) Engaged in construction activities at the former World Trade Center site or in heavily dust-contaminated areas	
(d) Engaged in loading/unloading, removal and/or transport of contaminated debris, including but not limited to the debris cleanup at the Staten Island Landfill and the barge loading piers	
(e) Engaged in morgue or mortuary activities involving contaminated human remains	
(f) Cleaned heavy dust contamination on streets, inside or outside buildings, and/or on contaminated vehicles	
(g) Worked, volunteered, and/or attended school/daycare in heavily dust-contaminated areas or in areas in the path of heavy smoke plumes	
(h) Lived and/or slept in a heavily dust-contaminated area or in an area in the path of heavy smoke plumes	
Tier 2	
(i) Engaged in construction activities in a contaminated area with a visible, but light layer of dust or debris or where there was the smell of smoke or chemicals from the former World Trade Center site	
(j) Cleaned a contaminated area with visible, but a light layer of dust or debris or where there was the smell of smoke or chemicals from the former World Trade Center site	
(k) Worked, volunteered, and/or attended school/daycare in a contaminated area with a visible, but light layer of dust or debris or where there was the smell of smoke or chemicals from the former World Trade Center site	
(l) Lived and/or slept in a contaminated area with a visible, but light layer of dust or debris or where there was the smell of smoke or chemicals from the former World Trade Center site	
Tier 3	
(m) Engaged in construction activities in an area that was not contaminated with a visible layer of dust, which was not in the path of smoke plumes, and where smoke or chemicals from the former World Trade Center site could not be smelled*	
(n) Cleaned an area that was not contaminated with a visible layer of dust, not in the path of smoke plumes, and where smoke or chemicals from the former World Trade Center site could not be smelled*	
(o) Worked, volunteered, and/or attended school/daycare in an area that was not contaminated with a visible layer of dust, which was not in the path of smoke plumes, and where smoke or chemicals from the former World Trade Center site could not be smelled*	
(p) Lived and/or slept in an area that was not contaminated with a visible layer of dust, not in the path of smoke plumes, and where smoke or chemicals from the former World Trade Center site could not be smelled*	
(q) Traveled through the New York City Disaster Area	

* Note: The lack of visible evidence of dust, smoke plumes, or the smell of smoke or chemicals does not automatically imply that contamination was not present.