

# This is an official **CDC HEALTH UPDATE**

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## **CDC Health Update-End of Week Report**

September 14, 2001

### **To All HAN Coordinators:**

This report provides a brief update of CDC activities this week.

### **CDC Team**

CDC has sent a total of 53 staff, including 35 epidemiologists, occupational health specialists, and other public health professionals to supplement local efforts and provide expertise in matters relating to public health. The epidemiologists will be assigned to hospitals to assist New York health officials and physicians to monitor diseases; conduct a medical and health needs assessment; identify existing health problems, such as dust or allergic reactions; and determine if there are new medical needs and if already deployed resources are better used elsewhere. The team will assist New York City hospitals as directed by state and local health officials. CDC staff also have special duties to watch for and help prevent possible secondary diseases, including infectious disease and effects of dust and other debris. In addition, CDC personnel are assisting the city's rescue workers who have been injured or exposed to health-threatening materials during their operations.

### **Supplies**

CDC released one of the eight "12-Hour Push Packages" that are maintained in pre-packaged, pre-positioned caches in secure storage facilities around the country. "Push Packages" contain pharmaceuticals, intravenous supplies, airway supplies, emergency medication, bandages and dressings, and other materials to cover a spectrum of medical needs. Each "package" involves several truckloads of materials and is intended to be sufficient to respond to an emergency involving mass casualties. In addition, CDC provided 84,000 bags of intravenous fluid and other intravenous supplies, as well as 350 portable ventilators and 250 stationary ventilators.

### **Health Alert Network**

CDC's Health Alert Network was used to distribute information to health officials in New York City and around the country regarding incident response and technical issues. Twenty-four states have issued advisories through their state-based Health Alert Network regarding increased surveillance.

### **Information**

For further information regarding technical issues, please consult the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and click on CDC Recommends in the left column.

For more comprehensive information on the HHS response, go to [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov).

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.*

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**