

WTC-12 Deadline Fast Approaching

REGISTER NOW TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO FUTURE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS

Thousands of workers and volunteers exposed to hazards after 9/11 have won a second chance to secure Workers' Compensation benefits if they become

sick in the future. A new law lets WTC responders register to preserve the right to file for benefits — *but you must register by August 14, 2007, to qualify.*

Register now if you did rescue, recovery or cleanup work, either as a volunteer or for pay, between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 12, 2002, in any of the following locations:

- anywhere in Manhattan south of Canal or Pike Streets, or
- on the barge operation between Lower Manhattan and Staten Island, or
- at the Staten Island landfill or the New York City morgue.

Register now, even if you have not gotten sick, or if you have filed before.

If you fail to register before the August deadline you will lose the right to file future Workers' Compensation claims for 9/11-related illness.

For more information and to register your WTC-12 form call your WTC Medical and Treatment Program clinic or 888-702-0630.



"I am not sick now and hope that I don't have any effects in the future from my 9/11 work. But I want to have every protection in place in case something happens, so I have already registered for the Workers' Compensation benefits. Do it today and protect yourself and those you love."

—Doris Robinson, WTC Responder



WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program

Mount Sinai School of Medicine
One Gustave L. Levy Place
Box 1057
New York, NY 10029

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Address Service Requested

The World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program Data and Coordination Center

Mount Sinai School of Medicine
One Gustave Levy Place, Box 1057
New York, NY 10029
Phone: 888-702-0630

We welcome feedback.

To update contact information or clinical center preference, call us or visit www.wtcexams.org and click on "Forms."

Funded through a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

WTC Medical Treatment Gets Federal Funding

9/11 Responders win free care for covered conditions

Thanks to tireless efforts by New York legislators, unions, and 9/11 responders, new federal funding will ensure that 9/11 responders receive no-cost treatment for World Trade Center-related illnesses.

“The federal government’s funding reflects a commitment to compassionate, appropriate, and timely support for the World Trade Center responders,” said NIOSH Director John Howard, M.D. NIOSH administers the federal funding for monitoring, screening, analysis, and medical treatment for WTC responders.

The treatment program will cover all costs for the diagnosis and treatment of covered conditions (see list at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/wtc/FAQ.html>), including prescription drug charges. No copays or deductibles will be applied.

Patients will no longer have to worry about paying for treatment of covered conditions. It also frees union health funds from the cost of World Trade Center-related treatment,

which means lower health costs in the long run that will benefit all health fund participants.

More than 20,000 responders have been seen by the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program to date. Dozens of unions and the New York congressional delegation backed the proposed funding, as did hundreds of individuals involved in the monitoring program.

“We are still getting over 500 responders registering each month,” said Dr. Robin Herbert, Director of the program’s Data and Coordination Center. “The continued interest in the program shows the need for sustained funding.”

Who is eligible?

You are automatically eligible for the treatment services if you are already enrolled in the medical monitoring program and are sick with any of the covered conditions.

If you are not yet enrolled and want to learn whether you are eligible, call 888-702-0630 or log on to www.wtcexams.org to obtain

the fax number and mailing address for sending in a completed eligibility form.

If you were or are working for the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), you should call the FDNY

Bureau of Health Services (718-999-1858) or visit the following website for information about the program: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/insider/bhs/wtcmm/index.shtml>.

Securing Resources for 9/11 Responders



Cmdr. Jeff Endean and Senator Hillary Clinton after the Senate HELP Committee hearing on March 21, 2007.

“We could not stop the 9/11 attacks,” World Trade Center Monitoring and Treatment Program participant Jeffrey Endean told Congress on March 21, “but you have the ability to stop the human health disaster.”

On May 25, 2007, Congress approved a bill that included \$50 million for 9/11 responders’ health needs. Congress has so far provided much needed funding, thanks in part to the willingness of 9/11 responders — like Jeffrey Endean — to speak out and get involved.

For more on Jeffrey Endean, see the patient profile on page 2 of this newsletter.

Patient-activist Profile – Jeffrey Endean

At the time of the attack on the World Trade Center, Jeffrey Endean was Division Commander of the Special Services Division of the Morris County Sheriff's Office. He had worked in the emergency services division for 20 years.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Mr. Endean and his division reported for duty at Ground Zero. For more than two months, he was assigned to the Port Authority. In addition to his regular work shifts, he helped provide critical stress management for personnel at the World Trade Center site as a volunteer.

Mr. Endean's experiences at Ground Zero, combined with his personal struggle to receive proper medical treatment for 9/11-related illness, have made him a tireless advocate around 9/11 responder issues. On

March 21, 2007, he testified before Congress in support of continued funding for responder monitoring and treatment. (Go to http://help.senate.gov/Hearings/2007_03_21/Endean.pdf to read his testimony.)

We asked Mr. Endean how he got involved and why he feels so strongly about 9/11 responder health issues.

"Before coming to the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program, like so many others who responded at Ground Zero, I experienced the frustration of misdiagnosis of health problems and the struggle to come to terms with such major changes in my life — the ongoing, day-in, day-out emergencies that we responders all face.

"I was fortunate to become part of the program. When I learned how financially fragile it was, I decided to

help in any way that I could – as a way to pay back for the help they provide to me and to help other responders.

"This involvement has given me purpose and the chance to use my time well – and that in itself makes me feel better even though I'm physically unwell. It has also shown me that one person can make change, if only by bringing a human face to a disaster.

"All responders have experienced something that will never leave them. They also have in common a knowledge that there is a safe haven and somewhere for medical and all other needed help. That place is the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program.

"I guess I am pretty passionate about supporting the program, responders and veterans. It feels good to feel strongly about something so important."

Ask the Doctor—Dr. Maria Padilla, Pulmonologist

Dr. Maria Padilla is the Medical Director of the Lung Transplant Program and Director of the Advanced/Interstitial Lung Disease Program at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

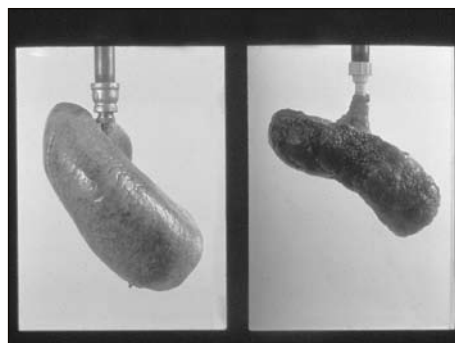
Q. What is interstitial lung disease?

A. Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a term that describes a broad group of conditions that affect the areas of the lung most directly involved in breathing. The severity of these disorders can range from a mild disorder to a fatal illness.

We are highlighting this group of conditions because, while rare, they can be quite serious. Early diagnosis can be very important to a patient's recovery.

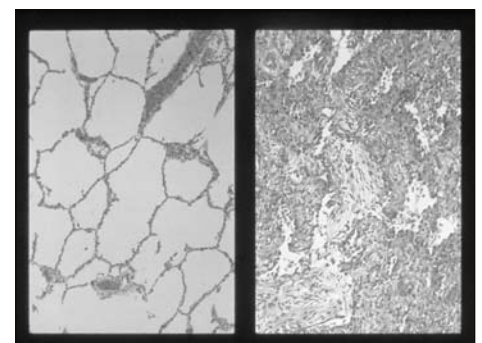
Q. What are the signs of ILD?

A. Symptoms of ILD include a



Air is pumped into both lungs above. L. Healthy lung. R. Diseased lung that is stiff and barely takes in air.

persistent dry cough and shortness of breath. Patients with this condition will notice that at first they may be short of breath when exerting themselves, such as when they are climbing a flight of stairs. It can get progressively worse until they have trouble breathing even while sitting down or at rest.



Under a microscope. L. Healthy air sacs. R. Diseased air sacs that have little room for exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide.

Q. Are these diseases caused by WTC exposures?

A. We know that exposures to dust and minerals have been associated with ILD. We also know that the WTC dust contains many products that could potentially lead to lung and airway inflammation or reaction. For example,

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Ask the Doctor

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cellulose, a substance used on the walls at the WTC, can generate disease in animals. And in May, the FDNY published a study that showed a sharp increase in sarcoidosis in the year after the 9/11 attacks.

At this point, however, it is difficult to tell whether their disease is directly related to exposures, if it's a coincidence, or whether the exposures were a trigger for the disease to occur.

Q. Are these conditions treatable?

A. Inflammation is much more treatable than fibrosis. (Fibrosis is scarring of the lungs.) We can give patients anti-inflammatory treatment. But when the tissue scars, it usually doesn't go away.

Q. How can the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program help responders concerned about ILD?

A. As part of their monitoring examinations at the WTC

program, responders perform a spirometry test, which evaluates lung capacity. They also undergo a chest x-ray every three years, and are asked to report any breathing problems. This is very important. If the exam shows any lung problems, the patient may be referred for a full pulmonary study.

The exposures created by this catastrophe have never been seen before. We can't afford to wait until responders have full-blown lung diseases to take action. The earlier you catch something, the more time you have to figure out how to treat it.

It is important for everyone to report information to the program even if they are diagnosed with a lung disease by their own doctor. The more information we have about responders' health, the more likely it is we will understand which illnesses or reactions are caused by the WTC exposures.

PARTICIPATING CLINICAL CENTERS

For more information, to register, or to change clinical locations, call 888-702-0630

MANHATTAN

■ Mount Sinai-I. J. Selikoff Center for Occupational & Environmental Medicine 212-241-1554

■ Bellevue Hospital Center/NYU Occupational & Environmental Medicine Clinic 212-562-4572

QUEENS

■ The World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program, Queens Clinical Center. 718-670-4174

LONG ISLAND (SUFFOLK AND NASSAU COUNTIES)

■ Long Island WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program, SUNY Stony Brook 631-444-6436

NEW JERSEY (PISCATAWAY)

■ UMDNJ Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences Institute. 732-445-0123 x600

OUTSIDE THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA

■ Appointments are available in locations across the country Call 888-702-0630 for details

NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT: Bureau Health Services

■ For current FDNY firefighters and officers and EMS workers and those retired after December 31, 1996 718-999-1858

■ Firefighters, officers and EMS workers who retired before January 1, 1997 can get services at the clinical centers listed above. 888-702-0630

Disease Tracking Is Up and Running

Changes in your health? Diagnosed with a problem by your own physician? Contact the Monitoring and Treatment Program if your health status changes.

For participants in the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program, the monitoring examinations are a starting point. Now and in the future, it will be critical that the program continue to follow participants' health so that they can anticipate any future health issues and long-term changes. This is where you come in:

- ⊙ Please contact the program if you have been diagnosed with cancer, lung disease, or an auto-immune disorder since your most recent monitoring examination.
- ⊙ Share information with the program when you receive calls or letters from us. It is critical to let

us review your medical records from your personal physician who is treating you for one of these target conditions.

The various ways we collect information will give us a way to see health patterns. The information will enable us to see disease trends and to get that information out to responders, health care providers and the public. New information will provide great insight into the future health concerns of all WTC responders.

"All 9/11 responders have to deal with uncertainty and worry. It helps to know that the monitoring and treatment program is tracking our health so closely and that so many resources are focused on the kinds of health issues we might encounter."

—Reginald Hilaire,
NYPD Police Officer and
WTC responder