



Facts about

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN)

PURPOSE

The Health Alert Network (HAN) is a nationwide, integrated information and communications system serving as a platform for distribution of health alerts, dissemination of prevention guidelines and other information, distance learning, national disease surveillance, and electronic laboratory reporting, as well as for CDC's bioterrorism and related initiatives to strengthen preparedness at the local and state levels.

- When complete, the Health Alert Network will ensure:
- High-speed, secure Internet connections for local health officials, providing access to CDC's prevention recommendations, practice guidelines, and disease data; capacity for rapid and secure communications with first responder agencies and other health officials; and capacity to securely transmit surveillance, laboratory, and other sensitive data
- On-line, Internet- and satellite-based distance learning systems
- Early warning broadcast alert systems
- That public health agencies achieve high levels of organizational capacity.

PREPAREDNESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

CDC is partnering with local and state health agencies and national public health organizations to:

- Connect local health agencies to the Internet by funding initial purchase and installation of electronic computing and communications equipment, including equipment for satellite- and Internet-based training
- Develop and deliver training in the use of information technology in order to prepare public health workers to respond to bioterrorist threats
- Develop electronic tools to support preparedness for and response to bioterrorism and other disease threats, and rapid dissemination of health warnings
- Deploy authoritative preparedness, diagnosis, and treatment guidelines
- Develop science-based, local health department performance standards related to domestic terrorism and other essential health services

PROGRESS REPORT

CDC is providing HAN funding and technical assistance to the following recipients:

- All 50 state health agencies, the District of Columbia, the territory of Guam
- Three metropolitan health departments (Chicago, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services, and New York City)
- Three Local Exemplar Centers for Public Health Preparedness (DeKalb County Board of Health, Georgia; Monroe County Health Department, New York; and Denver Health/Denver Public Health, Colorado)
- One Specialty Academic Center for Public Health Preparedness (The Center for Research and Education on Bioterrorism and Emerging Infections, Saint Louis University School of Public Health).

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