

How can health care professionals obtain timely information on topics in public health and mental hygiene?

What is available on the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene web site (<http://www.nyc.gov/health>)?

A visitor to the Department's web site can easily obtain information on a variety of public health topics, including Department services; events and educational programs sponsored by the Department; results of restaurant inspections; instructions on applying for birth and death certificates; dog licenses; health insurance; and the *Take Care New York 2012* initiative.

Of special interest to physicians and other health care providers are

- Alerts on emergent public health issues (e.g., novel H1N1 influenza)
- *City Health Information* and *Vital Signs* bulletins
- Information about public health services available from the Department, including Immunization, Chest and Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Clinics; HIV/AIDS counseling/testing sites; Crisis Intervention Services; and the Early Intervention Program
- Public health detailing programs

At the upper right margin of the web site screen is a box, "Health Care Provider". By clicking on the box, physicians can access health alerts and other publications. There is also access to NYC MED; the Citywide Immunization Registry; the Universal Reporting Form; and important public health initiatives. On the left margin of the screen is a box, "Health Bulletins and Other Publications"; this feature allows access to the complete list of DOHMH publications.

Clinicians can also use the NYC DOHMH website as a resource through the 'Health Topics A-Z' link found on the left side of the homepage; this link allows users to easily search for a topic of interest. For example, clicking on 'T' and choosing 'tuberculosis' will give the user information on clinical policies and procedures and testing and treatment. Choosing 'C' can lead the user to *City Health Information (CHI)*, the bulletin regularly published by the Department for clinicians: again as an example, a *City Health Information* bulletin published in November 2009, "Outpatient Clinical Management of Influenza, 2009 – 2010", (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/chi/chi28-suppl6.pdf>), includes information current as of winter 2009–2010 on reporting influenza.

Please take some time to familiarize yourself with our web site. Because the *Compendium of Public Health Reporting Requirements* is published annually, there may be updates to information included in the *Compendium* after publication; the Department's web site should be consulted for current information.

Other web sites that health care providers can consult for information on topics in public health and mental hygiene include

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.CDC.gov>; recently published issues of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* are posted at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>.
- New York State Department of Health: <http://www.health.state.ny.us>. Click on HIV/AIDS at this website to access information about the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute's Clinical Education Initiative, or go to <http://www.HIVguidelines.org>.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website on HIV/AIDS: <http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov>
- Agency for Health Care Research and Quality: <http://www.ahrq.gov>. This website offers a clearinghouse of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for a variety of conditions, as well as much other information on quality of care and recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

What is the Health Alert Network (HAN)?

How can physicians and other medical providers register for it?

The NYC Health Alert Network (HAN) provides up-to-date information on urgent and emergent public health issues via e-mail and a website. Registrants on the HAN receive all alerts, advisories and updates issued by the DOHMH or the CDC in the e-mail in-boxes within two hours of release. The web-based HAN system archives all the alerts, advisories and updates; provides information on upcoming events of interest to medical providers; offers an extensive document library on public health issues and provides an on-line community to exchange ideas and ask questions. HAN registrants also receive the Department's *City Health Information (CHI)* via e-mail. HAN membership is free and available to all medical providers in the New York City area. All you need is an e-mail address and web access (Internet Explorer). To become a HAN member, register for the NYC MED portal. Go to <http://www.nyc.gov/health/nycmed> to register. If any problems are encountered in registering for or accessing NYC MED, please e-mail nycmed@health.nyc.gov or call 1-888-NYCMED9.

How can physicians receive publications of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene?

The Department's *City Health Information (CHI)* bulletin is designed specifically for the medical community: every physician licensed to practice in New York City should be on the *CHI* mailing list. If you do not currently receive this publication, or if you would like to change the address at which you receive it, please e-mail nycdohrp@health.nyc.gov or call 212-676-2188. Another publication likely to be of interest to health care providers is *NYC Vital Signs*, which presents information on the epidemiology of public and mental health problems in New York City as well as information on preventive health care: to be on the *NYC Vital Signs* mailing list, please e-mail HealthCML@health.nyc.gov.

Current issues of *CHI* are accessible in the "Publications" section of the Department's website.



How can arrangements be made for presentations by Department experts?

Department experts are available to speak on a wide range of public health topics. A “Speaker’s Bureau” catalogue is being updated by the Department’s Bureau of Public Health Training and will be posted on the Department’s website.