

New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation
World Trade Center Environmental Health Center

Administrative Offices
125 Worth Street, Room 503
New York, NY 10013



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Dear Parents:

Thousands of adults and children were affected by the events of September 11, 2001. Although many years have passed, studies show that some people who lived and worked in Lower Manhattan are still affected physically or emotionally. At the time of the attacks, approximately 40,000 children were living and/or attending school in the area, some near the World Trade Center (WTC). We would like to tell you about services available to you and your children, as well as provide you with new information for your child's pediatrician.

The WTC Environmental Health Center is a unique program established specifically for the purpose of treating WTC-related physical and mental health treatment in adults and children. **Treatment is available at no cost to you or your children.**

Funded by the City of New York and the federal government, the Center offers comprehensive assessment and treatment of 9/11-related physical and mental health problems for residents and local workers of Lower Manhattan below 14th Street as well as for those who were near Ground Zero on 9/11, residents of areas of Brooklyn and students who attended schools and colleges in Lower Manhattan in 2001 - 2002.

The WTC Environmental Health Center is located at Bellevue Hospital Center, Gouverneur Healthcare Services, and Elmhurst Hospital Center. The Bellevue location is the only one where services for children are available.

The Bellevue WTC Pediatric Program offers evaluations by doctors who specialize in treating children for the kinds of health conditions that may be WTC-related. For example, Bellevue pediatric providers support the care provided by your child's regular doctor by testing children to see if they are breathing normally. Appropriate medication is also available with no-out-of-pocket cost.

Every patient at the Bellevue Pediatric Program also meets with a child psychologist. Potential treatment includes therapy that helps children recognize and work through any 9/11-related emotional issues that affect their behavior, as well as art and play therapy.

In addition, the New York City Health Department recently released clinical guidelines for children and adolescents exposed to the WTC disaster. The guidelines assist health care providers by describing the exposures and potential health effects of 9/11 in children and offering both physical and mental health treatment recommendations. We urge you to speak with your pediatrician about these guidelines. They are posted on the City's 9/11 health website at www.nyc.gov/9-11health. Clinical guidelines for adults also are available.

For more information about the WTC Environmental Health Center, please call 1-877-982-0107 toll-free or visit www.nyc.gov/9-11health. A fact sheet enclosed with this letter offers a more detailed description of the services available at the clinic.

Sincerely,



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Enclosure

WTC/sdp
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