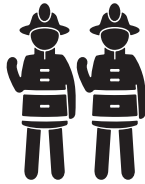


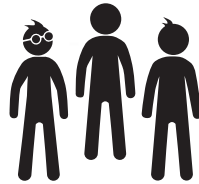
# Systemic Autoimmune Diseases

According to a 2019 study,\* systemic autoimmune diseases — including rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren’s syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus, mixed connective tissue disease, myositis and scleroderma — are an emerging health concern among people exposed to the dust cloud created after the World Trade Center (WTC) disaster.

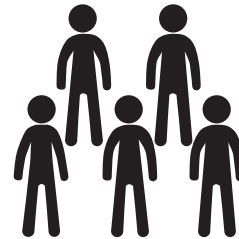
## Results from the study titled Systemic Autoimmune Disease Among Adults Exposed to the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attack showed:



Responders who were in the dust cloud on 9/11 were about twice as likely to develop systemic autoimmune diseases than those not in the dust cloud.



Community members who had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) were about three times as likely to develop systemic autoimmune diseases after 9/11 than those without PTSD.



Women who were exposed to 9/11 were about five times as likely to develop systemic autoimmune diseases than men who were exposed.

The study cited above showed all three of these groups had a higher risk of systemic autoimmune diseases after 9/11. Health professionals should be aware of these findings when caring for people who were exposed to the WTC disaster.

**To learn more about systemic autoimmune diseases and other 9/11-related physical and mental health conditions, visit [on.nyc.gov/3faNPyt](https://on.nyc.gov/3faNPyt).**

For emotional support at any time, call 888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355), text “WELL” to 65173 or chat online at [nyc.gov/nycwell](https://nyc.gov/nycwell). NYC Well is available 24/7 and in multiple languages.

This health material is provided by the NYC Health Department WTC Health Registry. If you have questions about the Registry, email [wchr@health.nyc.gov](mailto:wchr@health.nyc.gov).