

Did You Respond?



Understanding the World Trade Center Health Program for Pentagon and Shanksville 9/11 Responders

The World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program provides free health screenings and treatment for rescue, recovery and clean-up workers who responded to the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York City, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Over 60,000 people are members of the WTC Health Program, and many have received preventive care and treatment for 9/11 related illnesses.

Health benefits are now available for workers and volunteers who responded to the September 11th terrorist attacks at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The following information details how to apply and receive medical care through the WTC Health Program.

Who may apply for coverage?

You may apply for coverage under the WTC Health Program if you performed rescue, recovery, demolition, debris cleanup, or other related services at either the Pentagon or Shanksville, Pennsylvania sites. Responders include:

- Members of a fire or police department (active or retired)
- Emergency health workers
- Workers from recovery or cleanup contractors
- Volunteers who assisted in rescue, recovery, or clean up efforts

How do I enroll?

Complete and submit an application to the WTC Health Program. Your application will help determine your eligibility for the Program. Applications may be found at www.cdc.gov/wtc or by calling **1-888-982-4748**.

What does the application entail?

The application will ask for basic information like your name and address. It also will ask you to provide details about your work experience during the 9/11 attacks and their aftermath, such as where you worked, for how long, and what type of

duties you performed. Supporting documentation and a signature will be needed to verify your application.



What will I need for documentation?

Supporting documentation is anything that attests to your work with the rescue, recovery, and/or clean-up operations. A pay stub, official personnel roster, site credentials, or a written statement by an employer under penalty of perjury are examples of supporting documentation. If you cannot find these or similar materials, you must explain how you tried to find it and why the attempt was unsuccessful and provide a signed, written statement attesting under penalty of perjury that you meet the eligibility criteria.

What type of services may I receive?

Once enrolled, WTC Health Program provides free, in-depth yearly medical screenings. If a screening reveals that you have a health condition related to your 9/11 work experience you will be eligible to receive high quality health care, including prescription drugs, at no cost to you.

Does the WTC Health Program cover all health issues?

The Program only provides treatment for specific physical and mental health conditions that have been certified by the WTC Health Program. These include specific types of cancer; respiratory diseases like asthma and chronic cough; digestive disorders, such as GERD; and mental health conditions like anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder. The Program will provide no cost medical treatment if the covered condition is determined to be caused by exposure to airborne toxins, other hazards, or other adverse conditions resulting from the September 11th terrorist attacks. For a detailed list of covered conditions please visit www.cdc.gov/wtc or call **1-888-982-4748**.

Learn More. Call 1-888-982-4748 or visit www.cdc.gov/wtc

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What if I was diagnosed before joining the Program?

If you have already been diagnosed with a condition that the Program provides coverage for, you may still be eligible for medical benefits. A WTC Health Program provider would need to certify your condition as being related to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Once certified, you may begin receiving benefits under the Program.

It's been over 11 years, why should I see a doctor now?

Though the September 11th attacks were over a decade ago, many first responders continue to experience physical and mental health symptoms as a result of their experience. Current or eligible responders may not recognize that some cancers, a chronic cough, difficulty sleeping, or frequent heartburn could be a 9/11 related condition. Doctors with the WTC Health Program are experts in identifying these illnesses and providing the highest quality care.

How do I get treatment?

Responders from the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania will be able to select a participating health provider through the WTC Health Program's Nationwide Provider Network. The Network links members with nearby medical experts who are familiar with diagnosing and treating 9/11 related health conditions. You also have the option to receive care in New York City at one of the Program's eight Clinical Centers of Excellence. Once your application is approved you may select where you would like to receive your care.

Can I still keep my doctor?

Yes. Most members continue to see their regular primary care doctor or other specialists for conditions not related to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It is important to inform your providers of any treatments or medicines prescribed through the WTC Health Program. Good communication will help your doctors coordinate care.

Where can I get more information?

The call center for the WTC Health Program helps thousands of people a year with questions about the Program. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They can be reached toll-free at **1-888-982-4748**. The Program's website also contains helpful information. Please visit **www.cdc.gov/wtc** to learn more and find application materials.

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