DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Health Alert Network Fact Sheet

Overview

Ebola, H1N1, Anthrax, Measles, and *Rhodococcus Equi* – what do all of these have in common? Public health has information to help you prevent, diagnose and treat these unusual conditions.

The Health Alert Network (HAN) is a notification system designed to quickly distribute urgent information from public health to thousands of healthcare professionals - doctors, nurses, and other key partners across Minnesota.

We need your help to make it work.

Messages are distributed via a three bounce system - a phone tree without the phones.

Bounce 1: CDC and/or MDH to local and tribal health departments.

Bounce 2: Local and tribal health to hospitals, clinics, emergency management, skilled nursing and others.

Bounce 3: Distribution within organizations to doctors, nurses and others who treat patients.

At each level, additional information may be added to make the message more relevant.

Health Alert Network Procedure

Time is of the essence when a HAN message arrives. Include the following four things in your agency Health Alert Network Procedure:

1. **Identify Incoming Health Alerts**
   Be able to spot health alerts at a glance!

2. **Acknowledge & forward**
   Know how to acknowledge the message

and who to give it to next.
   Health Alerts – please forward within 1 hour
   Health Advisories – please forward within 24 hours

3. **Backup plan**
   Have a plan in place in case the primary HAN Contact is out sick or on vacation.

4. **After-hours**
   Have a plan for those rare messages that arrive during evenings and weekend.

Maintain Contact Lists

Notify your local or tribal health department if contact information changes for you or your backups.

Make sure the lists you use when you forward the message are also kept current.

MDH HAN History

List of recent HANs and overviews of the program are found at
https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/han/index.html

Thank you!

You make a difference here, helping to protect the health of all Minnesotans!