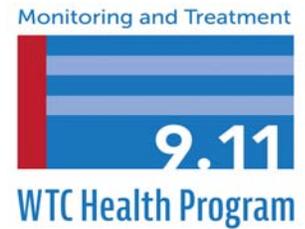




FDNY WTC Health Program



Issue VI

August 2013

Message from Dr. Kelly on WTC 12th Anniversary

On 9/11/2013, the world stops to again remember those we lost that day when our nation was attacked.

For FDNY, every day we remember those who made the Supreme sacrifice at the World Trade Center. We also remember those who died from illnesses related to their work at the site. The FDNY WTC Memorial Wall, located in FDNY Headquarters, reminds us with every annual addition of names that our losses continue.

The FDNY WTC Health Program continues to serve our members, active and retired, who were exposed due to their participation in rescue and recovery at the WTC site.

Since its inception, in the fall of 2001, our program has been dedicated to maintaining the health of our members. This health program is a natural outgrowth of our annual medical evaluation with additional focus on WTC related health issues and illnesses. This program was the first of its kind, designed to evaluate members, to document health trends and to treat conditions that are related to WTC exposures. The program serves our FDNY first responders, EMS and FIRE, active and retired.

The FDNY WTC Program, through the efforts of our members, our unions and management support, has identified important health trends in our uniquely exposed workforce. The FDNY WTC program was the first to show the decrease in lung function in our members; our program was also the first to show an increased incidence in cancer in our FDNY first responders. This information has been critical for federal support to continue to finance health care in particular, for our members with cancer.

The goal of our program continues to be prevention and early detection. The cancer surveillance program starting this year will be of critical importance in achieving this goal. Please continue to read this newsletter which outlines important information you need to know.

Thank you for your continued support. The FDNY WTC Health program is the only program dedicated to and designed for FDNY members. Your participation is critical to ensure that your voice can be heard.

BE WELL AND STAY SAFE

New Colonoscopy and Mammography Initiative

The WTCHP monitors the health status of our enrolled members, especially for the development of specific cancers, such as colon, rectal and breast cancer. Getting a Colonoscopy and or Mammogram can help with prevention, early diagnosis and more successful treatment.

Why should I get a Screening Colonoscopy?

A screening colonoscopy is used to prevent colorectal cancer (by removing precancerous polyps) or to provide early diagnosis and thereby increase your likelihood for successful treatment. Even without GI symptoms, your WTC exposure may increase the possibility of later colorectal cancer.

Who should get a Colonoscopy?

All FDNY members enrolled in the WTC Health Program, who are between the ages of 50-75.

Where will the Colonoscopy be performed?

At a private Gastroenterology Endoscopy office near your home or work. Colonoscopies are not done at FDNY facilities or by FDNY employees.

(continued on page 2)



(Colonoscopy and Mammography Initiative Continued)

Why Should I get a Screening Mammogram?

A screening Mammogram is used to detect breast cancer as early as possible, increasing your likelihood for successful treatment. Even if you cannot feel a lump, your WTC exposures may increase the chance of developing breast cancer.

Who should get a Mammogram?

Females enrolled in the FDNY WTC Health Program between the ages 40 and 74 years old. Enrolled females at *increased risk* for breast cancer should begin screening at an earlier age. Please discuss this with your physician at your next annual monitoring exam.

Where will the Mammogram be Performed ? At a private radiology office.

Screening is available at NO cost to you and can help prevent disease or diagnose early for more effective treatment

For more information, or to make an appointment, call the FDNY WTC Health Program at 718-999-1858.

- Authorizations for your colonoscopy and mammogram are given at your annual medical exam for active duty members and at your WTC Monitoring Exam for Retirees.
- If your yearly retiree monitoring exam is overdue call 718-999-1858 to schedule an appointment.
- If you have had a monitoring exam within the last 11 months, schedule a treatment visit to obtain authorization.

Patient Testimonial: Firefighter John Colon



Firefighter John Colon worked for 30 years as a firefighter, retiring in 2011 out of Engine 167 in Staten Island. John responded on 9/11 while working at Ladder 103 in Brooklyn. He arrived at the site just as the second tower came down and worked as part of the rescue and recovery effort until some time in November.

John enrolled in the WTCHP right after 9/11, and Dr. Marchesano began treating him for his WTC related GERD condition. In September of 2010, John noticed a hardness on the left side of his abdomen that felt unusual. After observing it for about two weeks he decided he would have

Dr. Marchesano look at it. " I felt very confident going to one of the WTC doctors to be examined." When she examined John, she found a lump in the area of his spleen and told John to see his family physician right away and to have a CAT scan ordered.

John followed Dr. Marchesano's recommendation and, with the help of NYU's Medical Center, within two weeks time John had all the needed testing done, and a diagnosis of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma was made. Treatment proceeded aggressively under the supervision of a Hematologist-Oncologist.

FDNY's family transport unit helped out by taking John to and from Staten Island for his treatment. After receiving periodic follow up treatment for about two years, John feels and looks healthy— "we believe the cancer is in remission." In October he will get a follow up test for confirmation.

"Thanks to Dr. Marchesano and the whole staff of the Medical Monitoring Program for taking such good care of me."

Staff Profile: Dr. Koffler and the Cancer Program

Dr. Ellen Koffler started with the FDNY in April of 2013 in order to oversee the new Cancer Program that was created when many cancers became approved for coverage as WTC Health Conditions. Dr. Koffler graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical School and did her internship and residency at Staten Island Hospital. She had a private practice for a time, but spent the bulk of her career at the hospital in a variety of positions, including overseeing Pre-Admission Surgical Testing and as the Medical Director of Employee Health Service. She enjoys coming to work at the FDNY because it's so much like a family. She said, "If you have a problem here, there is a whole line-up of people who are willing to help you with it. It's not like that when you work in a big hospital."

One of the reasons Dr. Koffler was hired by the FDNY is that she has great attention to detail, or as she put it, "I'm very OCD." She and her team manage a complex network of care that encompasses

many different types of cancers and the many hospital programs and health providers that participate in the program.

Dr. Koffler explained that often a member will call and say that their doctor saw something suspicious, and that's when the WTCHP springs into action. They authorize testing right away so that if the member needs treatment, it will happen without delay. If NIOSH determines that the cancer is WTC-related, treatment is coordinated and covered by the WTCHP if the treating physician participates in the WTC program.

The FDNY family transport unit is available to take the member to and from related appointments, and the nurses and staff are available to guide the member through what can be a daunting process (see page 2).

The FDNY Counseling Unit is currently in the process of developing some additional support services to help with the stress and difficulty of undergoing cancer treatment.



Dr. Koffler emphasized that the Cancer Program staff operates as a team. The team meets every week to review cases in order to ensure that patients are getting the care they need and that no one "slips through the cracks."

For more information about the Cancer Program call the FDNY WTC Health Program at 718-999-7040

Important Deadline Approaches for September 11th Victims Compensation Fund

The September 11th Victims Compensation Fund (VCF), was established by the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010. It was designed to provide compensation for individuals (and loved ones of those who have passed away) who suffered physical harm or were killed as a result of the attacks of September 11th, 2001.

- For most injured 9/11 Responders and Survivors, **Thursday October 3rd, 2013** is the deadline to complete and submit a brief registration to meet the VCF's filing requirements.
- The second VCF deadline is the date by which you must file your completed Eligibility and Compensation Forms, along with the required supporting documents. This deadline is **October 3, 2016** and is the same for *all* claimants.
- You need to register with the VCF by the deadline, even if you are already enrolled in the FDNY WTCHP or have responded to a WTC Health Registry Survey.
- For more information and to register contact www.vcf.gov

FDNY WTC HEALTH PROGRAM

9 MetroTech Center, Room 2E-13
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Phone: 718-999-1858
E-mail: wtcmed@fdny.nyc.gov



FDNY WTC HEALTH PROGRAM

When was the last time you came for your WTC Medical?

Call **718-999-1858** to make your appointment.

For questions about prescriptions, please contact **718-999-1937** or **718-999-0305**.

WTC Medicals
are available annually to active members in Brooklyn (MetroTech)
and retired members at all 5 locations.

Not all testing is done On-Site at every location.

Retirees, please use table below to find your location and testing information:

	Brooklyn HQ	Fort Totten	Orange County	Staten Island	Brentwood
Address	9 MetroTech Center Brooklyn, NY 11201	Building 413A Bayside, NY 11364	2279 Goshen Turnpike Middletown, NY 10941	1688 Victory Blvd Staten Island, NY 10314	Suffolk County Community College 1001 Crooked Hill Rd. Brentwood, NY 11717
Days	Tuesday — Friday & Occasional Sundays	Monday — Thursday	Thursday & Friday	Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday	Monday & Friday Occasional Sundays Tuesday Treatment Only
Hours	8:00AM to 2:00PM	8:30AM to 3:30PM	9:00AM to 1:00PM	8:30AM to 3:30PM	8:00AM to 3:30 PM
Blood Tests	On-Site	On-Site	On-Site	Off-Site	Off-Site
X-Rays	On-Site	Off-Site	Off-Site	Off-Site	Off-Site

Referrals to nearby facilities for off-site tests will be given to you by a WTC nurse on the day of your appointment.