

## Minnesota's Health Alert Network

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 Minnesota 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.

### How a HAN works

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.

### Your Organization's HAN Procedure

Time is of the essence when a HAN message arrives. If your agency or organization receives HANs, include the following five things in your agency Health Alert Network Procedure:

- 1. Identify Health Alerts**
  - Know how to spot a HAN
- 2. 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.
- 3. Acknowledge & forward**

Know how to acknowledge the message and what to do:

  - **Health Alerts** – please forward within 1 hour
  - **Health Advisories** – please forward within 24 hours
- 4. Backup plan**
  - Have a plan with backups for when your HAN Contact is out of office.
- 5. After-hours**
  - Have a plan in case emergency messages are sent evenings or weekend

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