



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

June 21, 2005

[EMS]
[EMS Supervisor]
[Address]

Dear [EMS Supervisor]:

One of the most important steps any organization can take to mitigate, or prevent, the impact of a natural disaster or bio-terrorist attack is to actively participate in preparedness activities including redundant forms of communication. Our partners from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) cooperative agreement provided funds for the development and support of a health alert network. The Michigan Health Alert Network (MIHAN) was created to ensure effective communications and dissemination of critical emergency information among key stakeholders in a public health emergency. The MIHAN provides role-based alerting and a comprehensive directory of participants on a secure web-based communication system. The system offers the ability to verify the alert message through many points of contact including; telephone, e-mail and text pager.

Over two thousand health professionals at the local and state levels are currently participating in the MIHAN system. We realize the Life Support Agencies are critical partners in an emergency. We would like to offer MIHAN accounts to the each of the 800 Life Support Agencies (LSAs) across the state. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) has covered the costs for each of these agencies to have an alert recipient license on the system.

Each LSA will be granted one Limited User, Alerting license for the MIHAN. This license will provide the ability to receive and confirm alerts on the MIHAN and have access to the comprehensive directory of participants. As an Alerting license user, your Medical Control Authority (MCA) will keep close communication with MIHAN administrative support team to update agency information that may change over time.

All LSAs participating in MIHAN must designate an individual as point of contact for each location. When choosing an ideal candidate to participate, one should consider a person that will be available to receive daily e-mail, telephone or text pager contact. In addition, this individual should be able to immediately disseminate health alert notifications to the appropriate persons within your agency. Choose a participant that can be the most effective channel of communications for your agency.

If there are concerns or you are unable to participate on the MIHAN due to technological disadvantages, it is imperative for you to contact your Regional Bio-Terrorism Coordinators to resolve this matter.

Therefore, please take a moment to complete the attached form and return in the enclosed envelope within 14 days. There are several options you may use to register, (1) Internet registration at <http://lsaregistration.michiganhan.com>, (2) fax registration at 517-335-8392, or (3) mail registration at P.O. BOX 30195, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909. However, we strongly encourage Internet registration if it is available to you. Soon after receiving your registration information, we will contact you for a brief training so you can begin receiving critical health-related information from the MIHAN system.

Thank you for your interest and support of the MIHAN. If you have any questions, concerns or assistance we can provide you in this activity, please contact Kevin Chau, at (517) 335-8797 or chauk@michigan.gov or Cheryl A. Klima, at (517) 335-5680 or caklima@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,



Linda J. Scott, RN, BSN, CIC
Bioterrorism Hospital Coordinator



Robin Shivley
Director EMS, Acting

Enclosure