



Partner Communications & Alerting

Health Alert Network

(HAN)

What is the Health Alert Network?

The Wisconsin Health Alert Network (HAN) is a secure, password protected, communications system for Wisconsin's public health departments, hospitals, clinics, emergency rooms, laboratories, law enforcement, fire service, EMS, volunteer and other health agencies. It is funded by a grant from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the goal of an improved communications infrastructure for all Wisconsin public health agencies and their partners.

What is the purpose of the Health Alert Network?

The primary purpose of the Wisconsin HAN is used to distribute emergent health information to health care providers and public health partners. In addition, the HAN provides:

- A “directory” or “white pages” of contact information for public health,
- The ability to create groups of users from the directory and send the group email.
- Public (all HAN users) and private (restricted to specific HAN users) “topic” areas for sharing information,
- The Wisconsin Emergency Volunteer Registry,
- Contact transfer to CommandCaller for alerting, and
- A limited survey function.

What is the future of the Health Alert Network?

The HAN is a custom developed web-based application that first became available for use in 2001. It underwent major technical and functional revisions in 2002 and 2004. Continued modifications were made to the application through 2006. In 2007, a user group recommended replacing the HAN with a more modern software product that provided a single sign-on to other public health applications as well as more modern components for registration, directory of organizations and individuals, library (document) management, task management, group creation and management, search, and alerting – a portal for Wisconsin public health.

In the two years since the recommendation was made, a number of stand-alone applications to replace current HAN functions have been acquired and are being rolled out – the new WEAVR application and the CommandCaller replacement, CityWatch. The next challenge will be to replace the HAN itself with a portal product that can be used to integrate public health applications.

How can I learn more or get access?

To access the Wisconsin Health Alert Network, the user must have a HAN account. If you do not have a HAN account, for instructions go to:

<http://www.hanplus.wisc.edu/tutorial/wams/>

For other information, visit:

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wipin/han.htm>

Or contact the Division of Public Health Partner Communications and Alerting staff at:

DHSPHAlert@wisconsin.gov