

## **CDPH Invites Community Clinics to Join the California Health Alert Network**

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in collaboration with the California Primary Care Association (CPCA), the California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF), and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), is launching a program to enroll community clinics, skilled nursing facilities, and Indian Health clinics in the California Health Alert Network (CAHAN). CAHAN, the State of California's official health emergency alerting system, is a secure web-based alerting and notification system that facilitates alerting, collaboration, emergency planning, and response communication among health care providers, federal, state, and local government, and other public health emergency partners.

In 2008, in collaboration with California's 61 local health departments (LHDs), and with the support of the California Hospital Association (CHA), CDPH held workshops across the state to enroll licensed general acute care hospitals in California to the CAHAN system. **In 2009, CDPH will enroll all community clinics, skilled nursing facilities, and Indian Health clinics along with remaining hospitals.** CDPH's Licensing and Certification Division will use CAHAN to communicate directly with the health care facilities it regulates and licenses to send documents such as All Facility Letters (AFLs). CDPH will also use CAHAN to send advisories from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Once enrolled in CAHAN, community clinics will be able to receive and confirm CAHAN alerts in minutes from state and local government entities during emergencies, urgent events, and disasters. CAHAN end-users can select the way they receive alerts—via alpha-numeric pager, email, fax, and cellular and landline phones, on a 24/7/365 basis. In addition to alerts notifications, CAHAN users also have access to a central collaborative work environment for health and medical emergency partners to securely share and store confidential and sensitive information. Currently, over 15,000 participants from many public and private organizations are enrolled in CAHAN.

The California Department of Public Health, Emergency Preparedness Office, which administers CAHAN, provides CAHAN training workshops throughout the state. Participants of these workshops will learn how to receive and confirm an alert and use CAHAN to enhance statewide communications among public health emergency partners.

Please register for free workshops that will begin in January 2009 and will be offered throughout the state on a regional basis through October 2009. **Please save these dates the attached training schedule for the dates in your area.**

All workshop participants can view the workshop schedule and register at [www.cahanworkshops.com](http://www.cahanworkshops.com). If you are unable to attend a workshop in your area, or it is full, consider attending any of the other workshops. Thank you in advance for your participation in this important effort that will assist with public health preparedness for the people of California by ensuring immediate alerting and notification is available between public health partners. If you have any questions or would like more information about this effort, please email [cahaninfo@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:cahaninfo@cdph.ca.gov) or contact Gigi P. Scott, CAHAN Unit Chief, at (916) 319-8182 or CPCA's Nora O'Brien at [nobrien@cpca.org](mailto:nobrien@cpca.org).

Group Recipients (individual recipients not included):

- CIO Task Force
- Clinic Emergency Preparedness Task Force
- CPCA Membership
- Clinicians Committee
- QI Peer Network
- TRAIN