### Health Alert Network

## **ABOUT THE HAN**

The Health Alert Network functions as the Texas PHIN's Health Alert component. This includes collaborating with federal, state, and city/county partners to develop protocols and stake holder relationships that will ensure a robust interoperable platform for the rapid exchange of public health information.

## **ACCESSING THE HAN APPLICATION**

Once you are a registered PHIN user, you must "log-in" to the PHIN Dashboard at <a href="https://www.txphin.org">https://www.txphin.org</a> by entering your username and password.

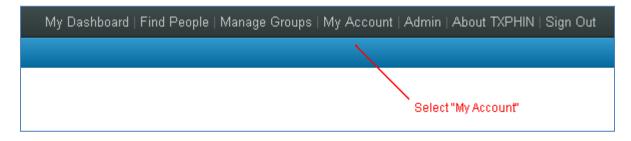


When you are logged in, you can access the HAN by clicking on the "HAN" application on the top left corner of your Dashboard.

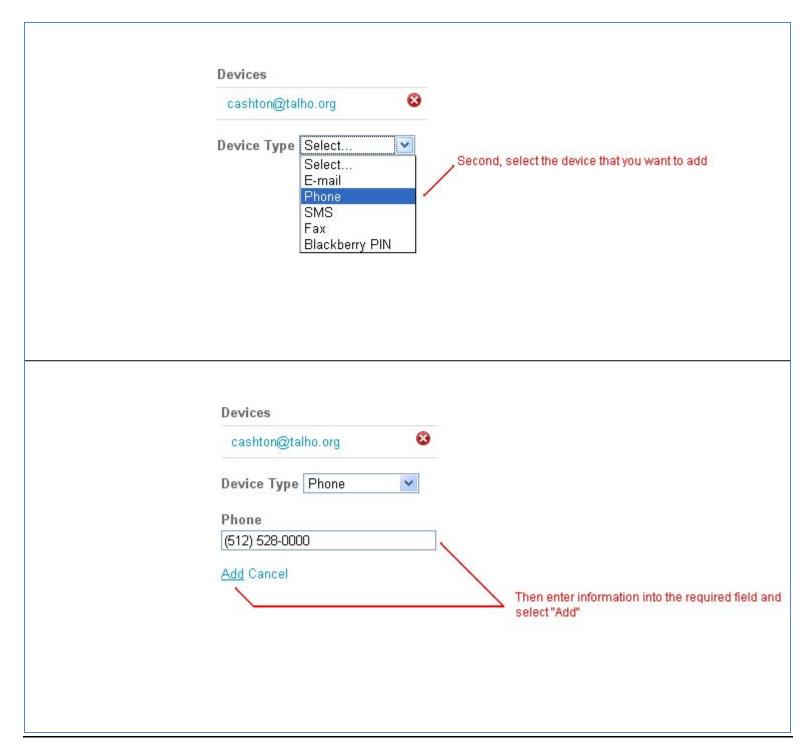


## **REGISTERING YOUR DEVICES**

The TxPHIN offers the feature of registering multiple "Contact Devices" to receive Health Alerts. Your account email address is your primary contact device; however, you can add more email addresses if you like. There are also choices to add a phone device, Blackberry PIN messaging, regular text messaging and fax. To register your devices, select "My Account" on the top toolbar on the left side of your Dashboard.



First select "Add Device" in the lower left corner of your Profile page. Then choose the device that you want to add. Based on the device you selected, you will be prompted to enter additional information such as a phone number, Blackberry PIN, or email address. Once you have completed this entry, select "Add" and your device will be added to your list of selected devices. You may delete a device from your list at any time, thus disabling it from receiving Health Alerts, by selecting the "red circle with an X" to the right of the device to be deleted.



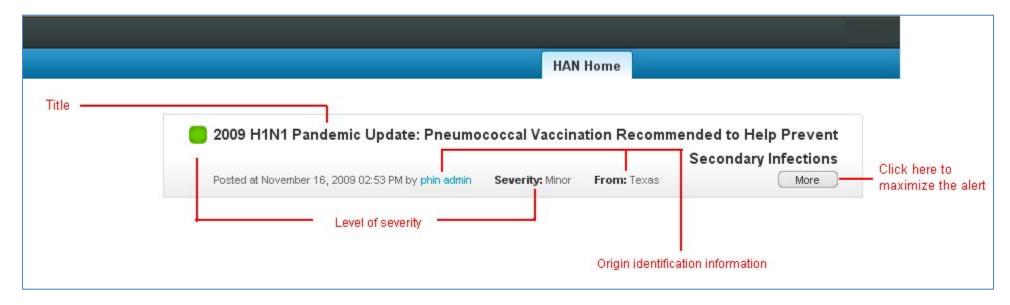
## **VIEWING HEALTH ALERTS FROM THE TXPHIN DASHBOARD**

Only the "Health Alert and Communications Coordinator in Texas" role is able to send alerts. If you are assigned any other role you can only view alerts.

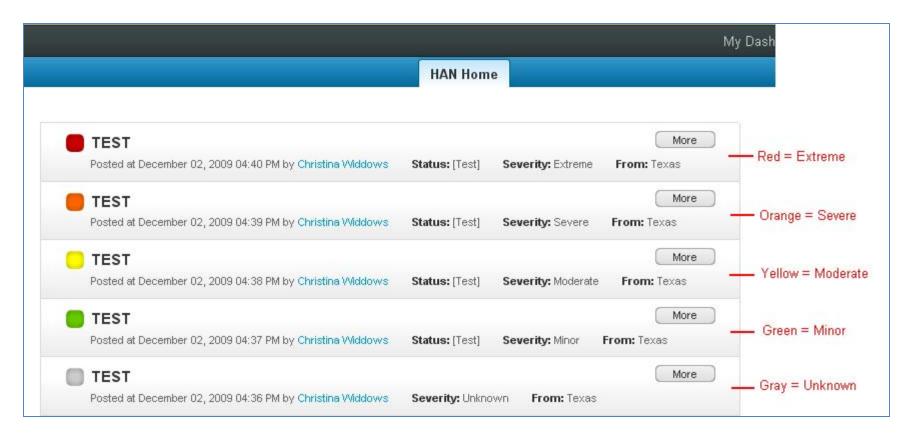
When you are logged in to the TxPHIN, you can access the HAN by clicking on the "HAN" application on the top left corner of your Dashboard.



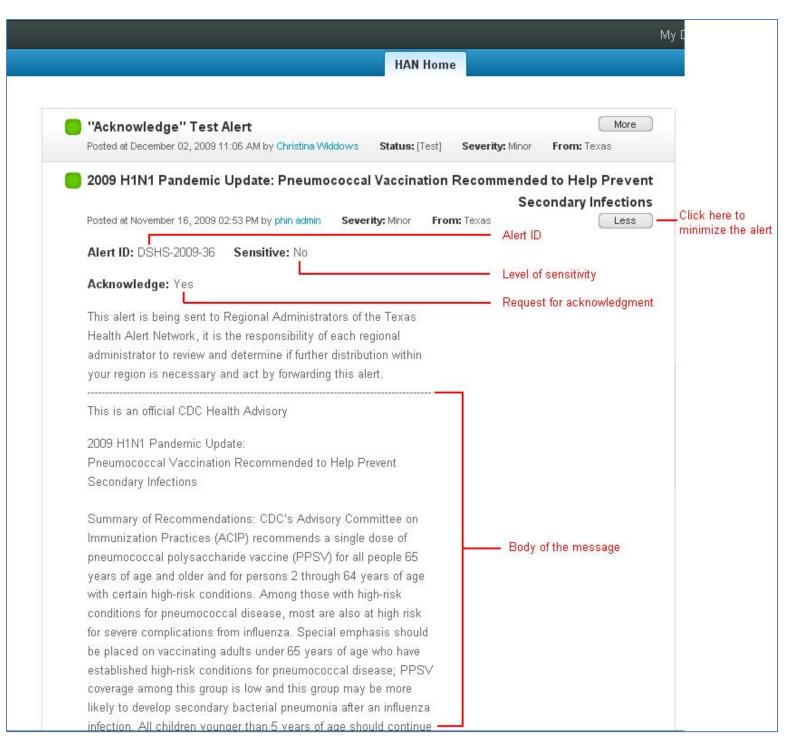
You can then view alerts posted to your "HAN Home". This "HAN Home" overview shows minimized versions of alerts from the jurisdiction in which you are assigned with each minimized alert containing a title, level of severity (denoted by both verbiage and coordinating color), and origin identification information.



For quick-reference use, each "level of severity" has a corresponding color, with "green alerts" being the most moderate and "red alerts" being the most extreme. If the "level of severity" is unknown it will appear as gray.



By clicking the "More" button on the right of each <u>minimized</u> alert, you can <u>maximize</u> the alert. Maximized alerts contain additional information fields including some that are primarily for Alerter posting and tracking purposes; alert ID, sensitivity, acknowledge. You can view the body of the message below the dotted line. When you have finished reading the alert, you can click the "Less" button to minimize it.

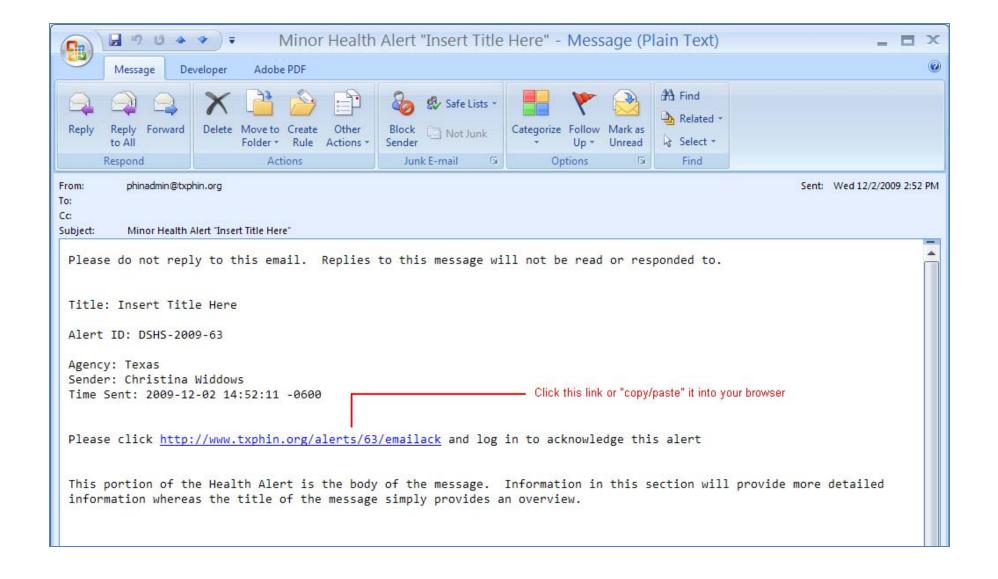


## **HEALTH ALERTS ON REGISTERED DEVICES**

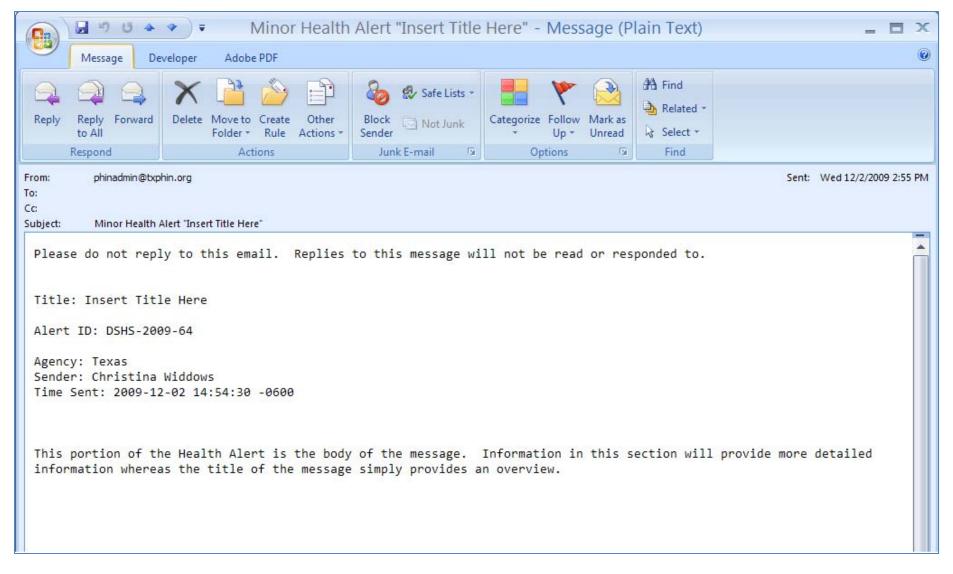
While you can login to TxPHIN at any time to view Health Alerts from your "HAN Home" page, the Health Alerts that you receive on "registered device(s)" will each have a unique delivery depending on which device(s) you selected. Please do not reply to email, SMS, Blackberry PIN, or fax messages as they are sent from an automated system.

### **EMAIL DELIVERY:**

As a default, Health Alerts will always go to the email address that corresponds with your user account. When receiving a Health Alert via email you can expect one of two scenarios. If the Alerter requests "Acknowledgment", you will receive an email notification from phinadmin@txphin.org that contains the Health Alert but also prompts you to follow a link in order to acknowledge that you have read the Health Alert.



If the Alerter <u>does not request</u> "Acknowledgment" you will receive an email notification from <u>phinadmin@txphin.org</u> that contains the Health Alert with no direction to follow a link. The presence or absence of the link is for acknowledgment purposes only. The Health Alert otherwise looks the same.



### **PHONE DELIVERY:**

If you have chosen "Phone" as a registered device and if the Alerter has chosen to include "Phone" as an alerting method for a particular alert, your phone will ring when a Health Alert is sent and when you answer an automated attendant will announce the Alerter's name and contact information, as well as an abbreviated version of the Health Alert. The automated attendant may prompt you to acknowledge receipt of the Health Alert by pressing a number on your phone. You will also have the option to replay Health Alerts. As a registered device, phones only receive short versions of Health Alerts so you may want to login to TxPHIN and read the extended version from the "HAN Home" page.

#### SMS (TEXT)/ BLACKBERRY PIN DELIVERY:

If you have chosen "SMS" or "Blackberry PIN" as a registered device, then you will receive Health Alerts to your phone via text message (SMS) or peer-to-peer text message (Blackberry PIN). This form of message will contain the Alerter's name and contact information, and an abbreviated version of the Health Alert. "SMS" messages and "Blackberry PIN" messages are short versions of Health Alerts so you may want to login to TxPHIN and read the extended version from the "HAN Home" page.

### FAX:

If you have chosen "Fax" as a registered device and if the Alerter has chosen to include "Fax" as an alerting method for a particular alert then you will receive hard-copy Health Alerts via fax.

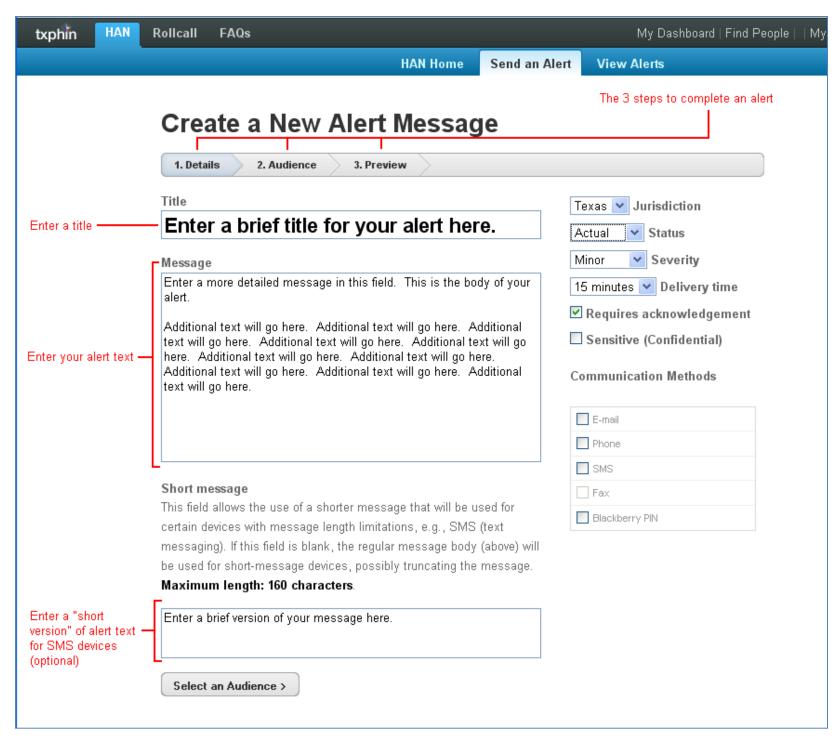
## **HOW TO SUBMIT A HEALTH ALERT**

Only those who are assigned the role of "Health Alert and Communications Coordinator in Texas" are able to <u>send</u> alerts. If you possess this role then login to TxPHIN and click on the "HAN" application on the top left hand corner of your home screen. As a "Health Alert and Communications Coordinator in Texas" you will see the additional tabs "Send an Alert" and "View Alerts". If the "Send an Alert" and "View Alerts" tabs are not visible to you from the "HAN" application, then you have not been assigned the role of "Health Alert and Communications Coordinator in Texas".

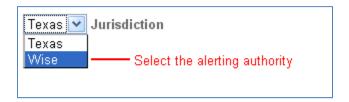


To send a Health Alert, click on the "Send Alert" tab. You will have to complete 3 steps in order send your alert; (1) Details, (2) Audience (3) Preview. First you will need to fill out the "Details" form. Here you will fill out the title and message of your alert using the boxes available. Provide a brief title to your alert in the "title" box and a more detailed message in the "message" box. If this alert will also be sent to mobile or SMS capable devices, you can provide a brief message/description of the alert in the "Short Message" box. This field allows the use of a shorter message that will be used for certain devices with message

length limitations, e.g., SMS (text messaging). If the "short message" field is blank, the regular "message" body will be used for short-message devices, possibly truncating the message. The limit for short messages is 160 characters.



Before moving on to step 2, "Audience", you will need to make a few more selections from a series of pull-down menus and check-boxes located on the right side of the "Details" screen. In the "Jurisdiction" pull-down menu, select the authority on whose behalf you are sending the alert. Only approved jurisdictions will appear in this menu.



Next, select the "Status" of your alert. You may choose 1 of 3 options; (1) Actual, (2) Exercise, (3) Test. An "Actual" alert is a standard alert while an "Exercise" alert can be utilized for event simulations. If you need to send a test alert then select "Test".



After that, select the level of "Severity" for your alert. You may choose 1 of 5 options; (1) Extreme, (2) Severe, (3) Moderate, (4) Minor, (5) Unknown. If you are unsure of the level of severity of your alert, then select "Unknown".



The following pull-down menu, "Delivery time", refers to the turn-around time expected for acknowledgment from recipients. On time-sensitive alerts, for example, you might select "15 minutes" whereas alerts that are less pressing might have a delivery time of "72 hours".



You have the option to require acknowledgment (receipt) of your alert. If you desire acknowledgment then check the "Request Acknowledgment" box.



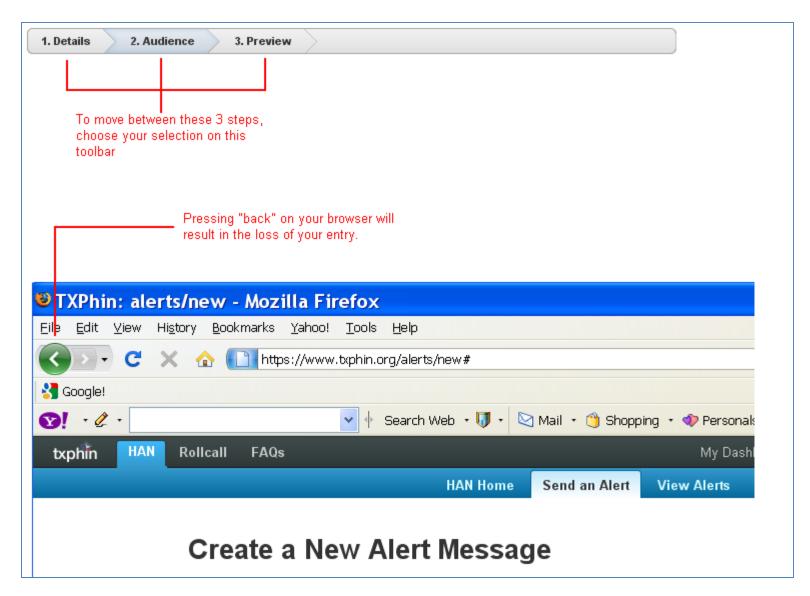
You have the option to make your alert "Sensitive (Confidential)". By checking this option, the body of the alert will not appear in any email, phone, or SMS/Blackberry PIN. Instead, recipients will be notified that they have received an alert and will be prompted to login <u>securely</u> to TxPHIN to view the Health Alert from the "Han" application Dashboard.



To complete the "Details" form, choose one of 5 "Communication methods"; (1) Email, (2) Phone, (3) SMS, (4) Fax, (5) Blackberry PIN. If you only want to communicate via email, then select "email". If you want to communicate by phone, SMS, or Blackberry PIN, you will be prompted to enter your phone number so that recipients can see the origin of the alert. You must select at least one "Communication method" although you can simultaneously choose up to 5 methods at a time.



When you have completed the "Details" form, click on the "Select an audience" option on the bottom of your screen. Should you decide to return to the "Details" form or wish to move between the "Details", "Audience" and "Preview" options, you can do so by use of the specialized toolbar below. <u>Do not</u> hit "back" on your browser. Doing so will result in the loss of your entry.

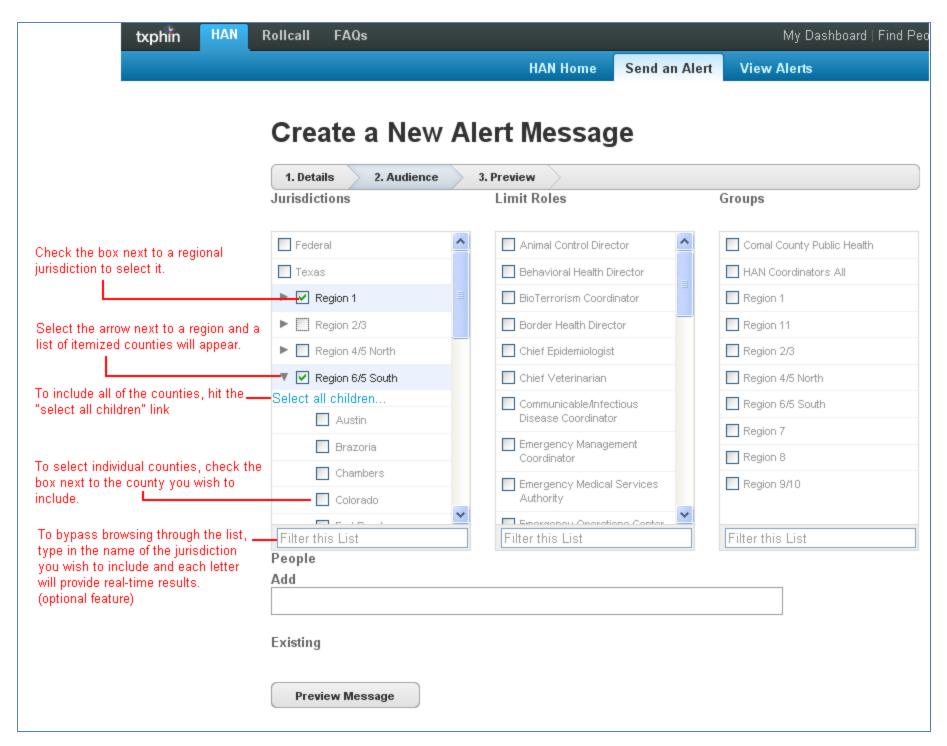


After clicking the "select an audience" button at the bottom of the "Details" form, you will move on to the "Audience" page that allows you to choose the recipients for your alert. When identifying your audience, you can choose from "Jurisdictions", "Limit Roles", and "Groups" (if applicable).

#### Jurisdictions:

Select the Jurisdiction(s) you would like to send the alert to by checking the appropriate box or boxes within the "Jurisdictions" menu. Each county within a jurisdiction is itemized below its parent jurisdiction and can be accessed by clicking on the arrow to the right of the parent jurisdiction. To select all counties under a parent jurisdiction click "select all children" or to select only specific counties, click the boxes next to the counties you wish to include.

A quick search feature is available for Jurisdictions, Roles, and Groups. This is referred to as "filtering". If you choose to use this feature, locate the box under each column labeled "Filter this List" and type in your desired text. The list in the column above will change with each letter that is typed in to provide real-time results.



### **Limit Roles:**

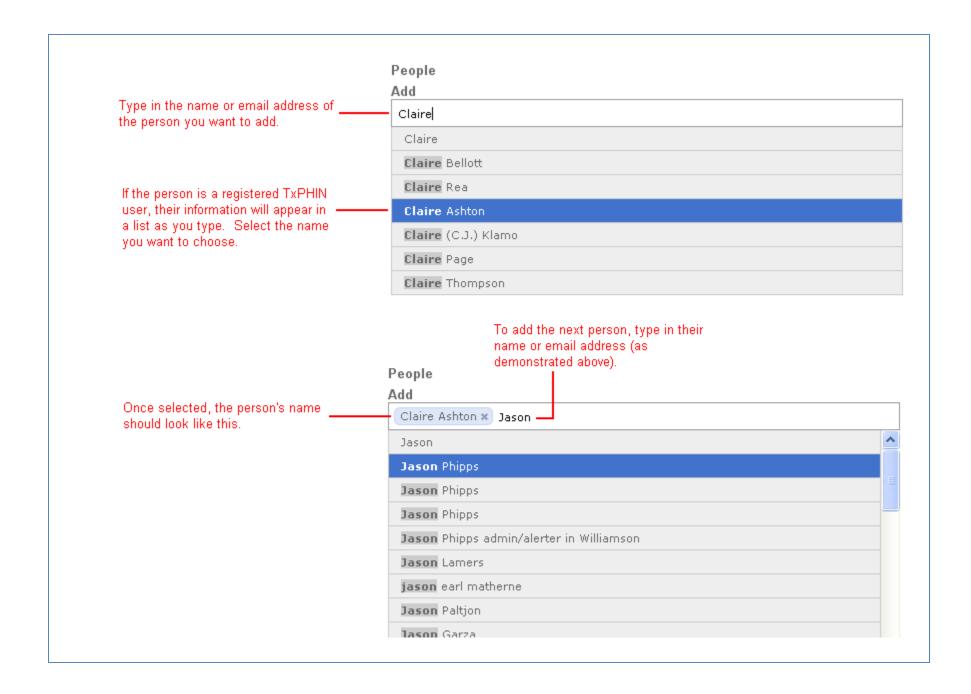
Next, if you want to send your alert only to recipients in specific roles, check the roles using the same method as above. You can use the "Filter this List" box below the "Limit Roles" column for a quick search by typing in the name of the role you are searching for.

### **Groups:**

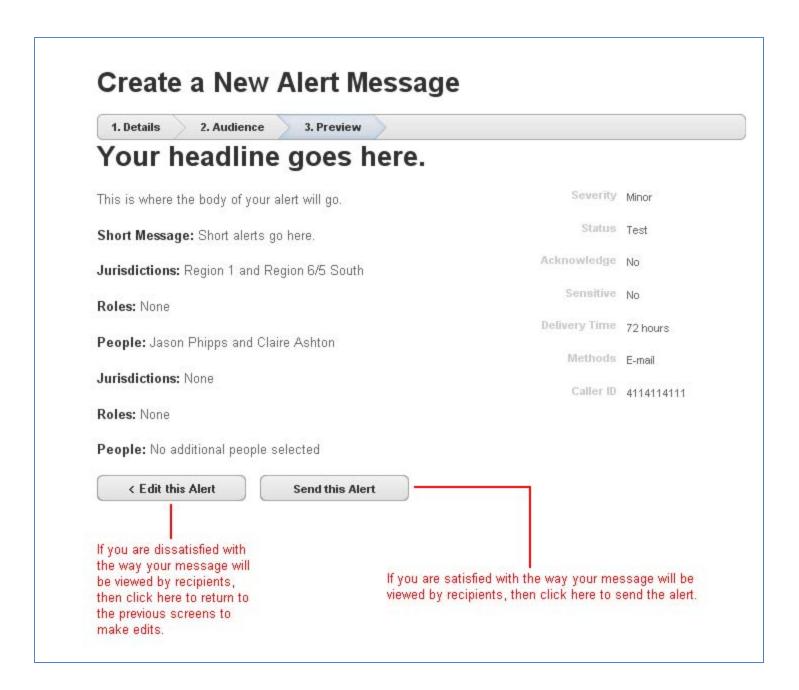
"Groups" is an optional column that you may wish to utilize when alerting a complex group if individuals. A group is a pre-determined distribution list.

### Add People:

To add individuals, locate the "People" box underneath the columns listed above. If you know the email addresses or names of the users you would like to send the alert to, type each, separated by a comma, in this box. This option also has a filtering feature that will provide you with a drop-down list of possible names with each letter you type. You do not need to do anything to activate this feature. If the user(s) whom you wish to send the alert to appear in the drop down list, simply click on their name(s) and they will be automatically added to the list. To remove someone from this list, click the 'x' located at the end of the user's name.



Now you are ready to preview your alert before sending. Click on the "Preview Message" option on the bottom of the "Select an Audience" screen. Here you can see how your alert will be viewed by others. If you are satisfied with your alert, click the "Send alert" option at the bottom of this screen. If you need to make additional edits to your alert, click on the "Edit this alert" option on the bottom of the screen. This option will take you back to the first form "Details". If you need to change the message portion, you can add text or delete previously entered text for the message part of your alert here. To move to the second form, click on the "Select an Audience" option located at the bottom of the "Details" screen. Here you can add or remove Jurisdictions, Roles, Groups and/or people whom this alert will be sent to. If you do not need to edit this tier or if you are done editing, click on the "Preview" tab located at the top of the screen and you will be directed back to the final step where you can send the alert. Click on the "Send Alert" option at the bottom of this screen and your alert will be sent as specified. You will receive an email notification at your registered email address when your alert is sent.



# **VIEWING ALERTS (SPECIAL FEATURES)**

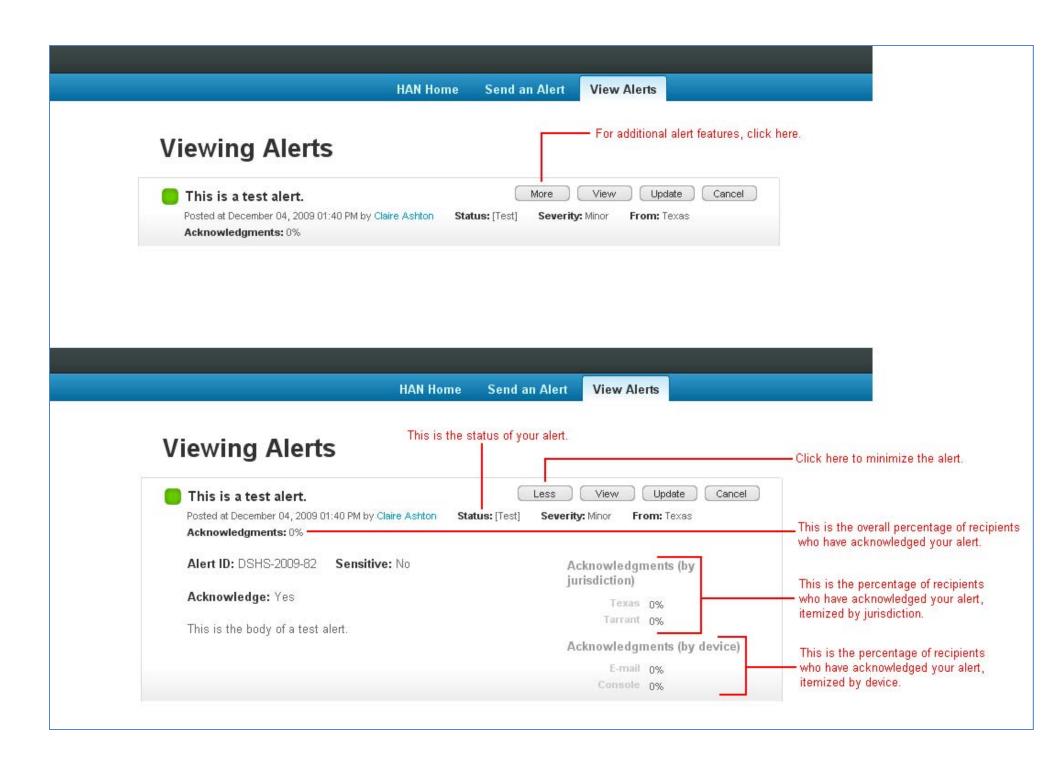
If you have the "Health Alert and Communications Coordinator in Texas" role, which allows you to <u>send</u> alerts, you will also have a "View Alerts" tab available to you that has special features. These features are only available to Alerters.



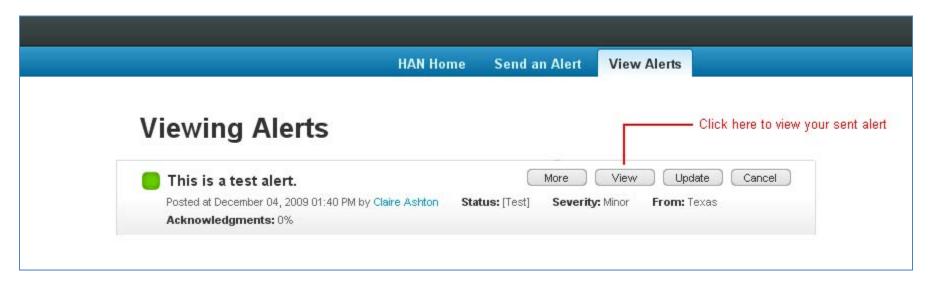
First, click the "More" button, which will maximize the alert you are viewing. As a Health Alert and Communications Coordinator in Texas" role, if you opted to "Require acknowledgment" when you were constructing your alert, you will have 4 additional fields that are visible to you that are not visible to standard users; (1) Status, (2) Acknowledgments, (3) Acknowledgments (by jurisdiction), and (4) Acknowledgments (by device).

The "Status" field will reflect that status you selected when constructing the alert (e.g. Extreme, Severe, Moderate, Minor, and Unknown). Below the "Posted date and time" information in the alert, you will see an "Acknowledgment" percentage that reflects the overall percentage of recipients who have acknowledged your alert. On the right side of the alert, these percentages are itemized by both jurisdiction and by registered device. If you did not choose "Require acknowledgment", these percentages will not be present.

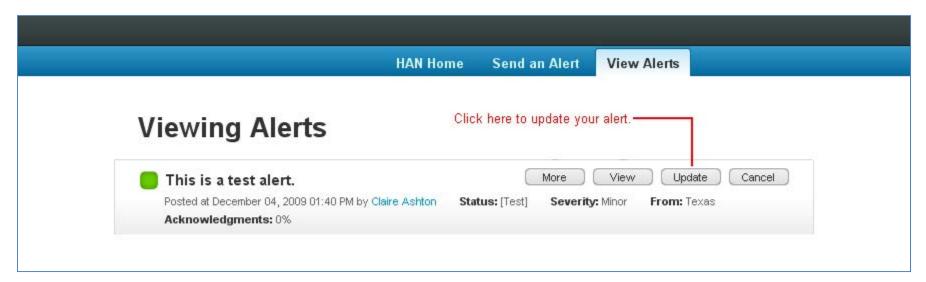
To minimize the alert, simply click on the "Less" button.



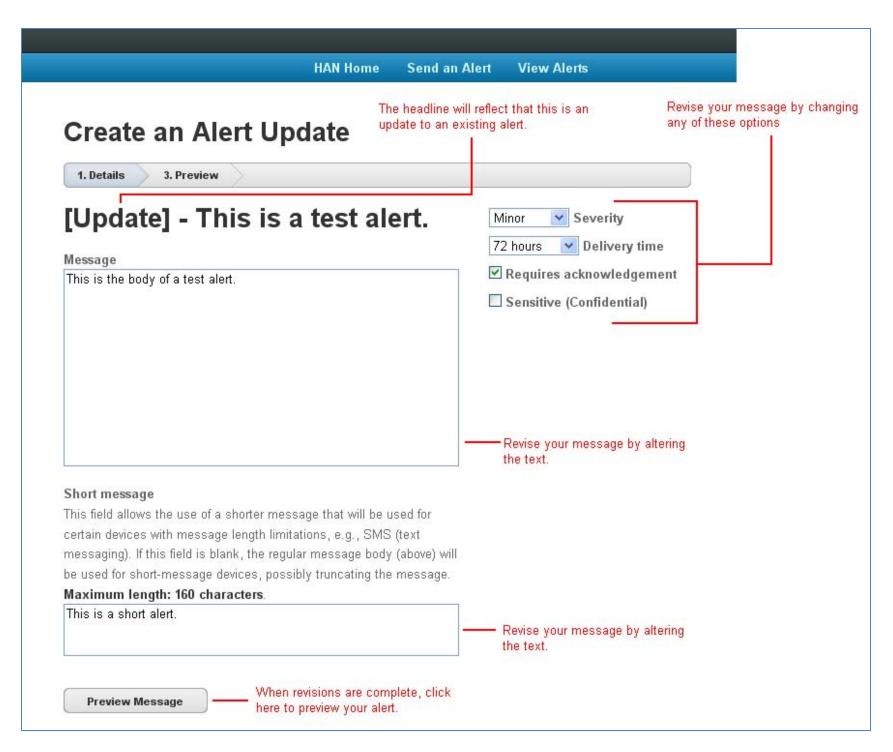
The "View" button allows you to view your alert, including the body of the message, similar to the "Preview" screen you viewed when constructing your alert. Click the "View" button to read your alert.



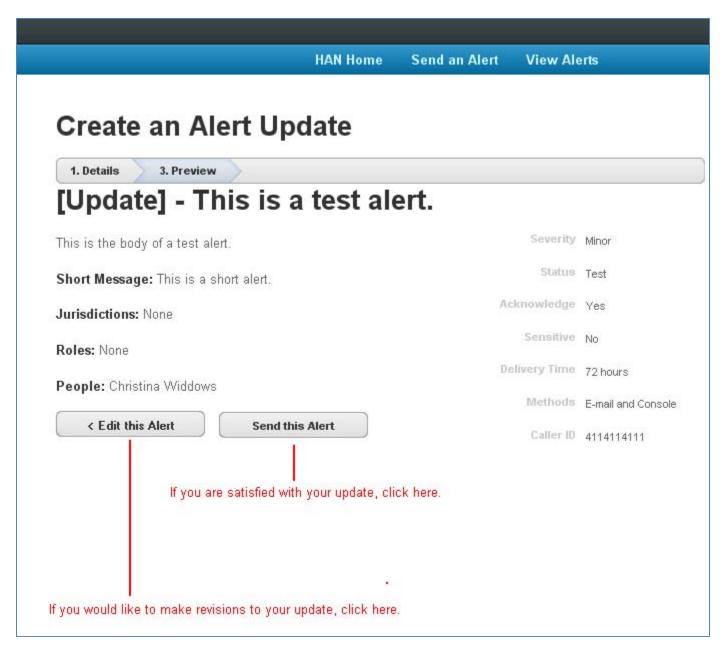
After posting an alert, you may decide later on that you want to make an update or change to your alert. Click the "Update" button and you will be directed to an "Update" version of the "Details" screen where you can change the body of the message of your alert.



You will not be able to change the headline or the audience of your alert. You can only change the long and short versions of the message, the "Severity", "Delivery Time", "Requires Acknowledgment" and "Sensitive (Confidential)" fields in the "Update" screen. When you have completed revision(s) to your message, click the "Preview" button at the bottom of your screen.



Proofread your message, and either click "Edit this alert" or "Send this alert".



Your updated alert will be send with your revisions and the word "Update" in brackets next to the alert title. Be advised that you may only make 1 update to an alert.

To cancel an alert, click on the "Cancel" button and follow the same process you followed to post an update from the "Update" screen. Once a cancellation is submitted, your alert will remain in queue on the "View Alerts" screen but will now contain the word "Cancelled" in brackets next to the alert title. Recipients of the alert will see the "Cancelled" status. Once an alert is cancelled it cannot be altered.

