According to a 2019 study,* systemic autoimmune diseases — including rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren’s syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus, mixed connective tissue disease, myositis and scleroderma — are an emerging health concern among people exposed to the dust cloud created after the World Trade Center (WTC) disaster.

The study cited above showed all three of these groups had a higher risk of systemic autoimmune diseases after 9/11. Health professionals should be aware of these findings when caring for people who were exposed to the WTC disaster.

To learn more about systemic autoimmune diseases and other 9/11-related physical and mental health conditions, visit on.nyc.gov/3faNPyt.

For emotional support at any time, call 888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355), text “WELL” to 65173 or chat online at nyc.gov/nycwell. NYC Well is available 24/7 and in multiple languages.

This health material is provided by the NYC Health Department WTC Health Registry. If you have questions about the Registry, email wtchr@health.nyc.gov.