Wireless Capabilities for SPH

The School of Public Health implemented a school wide wireless network in 2005. This wireless network environment provides access to the internet and network resources for Faculty, Staff, and Students. You have the ability to check email, browse the web, do online research, and have access to network shares or any other network resource. This Wireless LAN (WLAN) is an extension of the already existing wireless networks throughout the UT Health Science Center. *What does that mean?* The UT School of Public Health wireless network is subject to the same rules and regulations as the rest of the wireless networks around the University. Since wireless traffic travels through the air on radio waves, appropriate security procedures must be implemented to prevent confidential and sensitive information from exposure. We have compiled a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ's) to answer some questions you may have.

I heard there is a GUEST wireless system, what is that?

Starting in 2009, the "UTHSC Guest" wireless network became available. A guest of the University can gain access to this wireless network for 6 hour increments while in range of our wireless network. No username or password is needed for this access. Be aware that connecting to this wireless network has restricted privileges. For security reasons, this wireless connection sits outside the University network. You will not be able to connect to systems inside the University network which are protected systems. However, you will have the ability to connect to the Internet and University web resources which do not require VPN access. These systems would include WebMail, XFiles, BlackBoard, among others. Vista, Win7, and Mac computers connect to this wireless network with little issue. While this is a system for guests, nothing prevents students, staff, or faculty from using this network. However, this network has bandwidth restrictions, connected time restrictions, and has no ability to connect to resources inside the network such as mapped drives, file services, and protected websites like Peoplesoft.

The Information below pertains to the PROTECTED wireless network. This wireless network does require laptop configuration and a valid UT Houston username and password. The PROTECTED wireless network is broadcast as "UTHSC" and requires more setup due to its increased access privileges inside the network.

Q: **Who has access to the SPH Wireless Network?**

Any Faculty, Staff, or Student of the UT Health Science Center Houston. This network cannot be freely connected to by guests. Some security parameters must be set on the wireless device. **The user must have an account with the university in order to set up the connection.**

Q: **How do I configure my device to access the wireless network?**

If you wish to connect to the protected wireless network, please schedule time with a support specialist within IT Services so they can configure your laptop. You are welcome to come by our shop in the basement of the RAS building in Houston as well. At regional campus sites, you should meet with the local IT support specialist for that campus. The specialists are also identified on the previously mentioned website.

Q: **What type of equipment do I need to access the wireless network?**

Basically, any mobile device that has an 802.11b/g compatible wireless network adapter. If you are using a Windows computer, you will need at least Windows XP with service pack 2 installed. The wireless network does not support the "N" standard for wireless networking at this time.

Q: **Can I use a PDA to connect to the wireless network?**

SPH does not recommend the use of PDA's on the wireless network. There is no student support for PDAs.   PDA's can connect to the GUEST wireless network without any additional installed software on the PDA, but connecting a PDA to the protected network requires the installation and configuration of a 3rd party client. Contact IT Services for more information if this is required.   Faculty and staff are encouraged to obtain a Blackberry or iPhone for PDA-type connectivity. Starting in Fall 2010, iPhone support for students is allowed.

Q: **Where do I get support for the wireless network?**

Please visit the SPH IT Staff page website for contact information.