



This is an official  
**DHEC Health Advisory**

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## **RESEND: Illnesses and Injuries Resulting from Floods**

**Note: This is a revised version of a previously distributed HAN message. Please note the Regional and Central Office points of contact for reporting purposes.**

### **Guidance to Clinicians**

This is a Health Advisory from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to make health care providers aware of potential health consequences following floods.

Outbreaks of communicable diseases after floods are unusual. However, the rates of vaccine preventable diseases, enteric infections and other diseases that were present before a flood, may increase because of compromised sanitation or overcrowding among displaced persons. Increases in infectious diseases that were not present in the community before the flood are not usually a problem. Populations affected by flood waters may also be at risk for traumatic injuries, chemical exposures, animal exposures and vector borne diseases

### **Immunizations**

Vaccine-preventable diseases generally do not increase and therefore mass immunization clinics are not a standard recommendation. Routine recommendations apply in the aftermath of a flood and should be maintained to prevent outbreaks. There may be the need to vaccinate particular individuals involved in clean-up efforts, those providing medical care or displaced individuals living in communal settings for prolonged periods of time. Information about the vaccine schedule is available through the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html>

### **Tetanus Vaccine**

Clean-up and repairs following flooding presents an increased risk of injury and tetanus from injuries is preventable by vaccination. Evaluate any persons with a puncture wound or other potentially contaminated wound for current tetanus immunization status to determine whether a tetanus booster is necessary. Everyone should be immunized with a primary series of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis-containing vaccine. In accordance with the current CDC guidelines, individuals should receive a tetanus booster if they have not been vaccinated for tetanus during the past 10 years. Td (tetanus/diphtheria) or Tdap (tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis) can be used: getting the Tdap formulation for one tetanus booster during adulthood is recommended to maintain protection against pertussis. Adults who did not receive DTP or DTaP as a child, or whose tetanus vaccination history is unknown should receive a primary series of three doses of tetanus-containing vaccine in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended schedule. Take this opportunity to vaccinate individuals with Tdap to provide protection against pertussis as appropriate.

### **Hepatitis A Vaccine**

There is no recommendation for mass vaccination with hepatitis A during flood events. The virus is not common in the US and is generally not present even in sewage. For persons responding to the disaster, the risk of getting the disease is extremely low, and so the vaccine is not recommended for them.

### **Influenza vaccine**

It is influenza season and the influenza vaccine is recommended for all individuals > 6 months of age.

**Vaccine Availability**

The Adult Vaccine Program which is funded through federal 317 funds, allows for Td or Tdap vaccine for uninsured and underinsured adults age 19 and older at local DHEC health departments. In support of vaccination efforts in a disaster relief situation, the 317 funded Td and Tdap vaccine can be administered to fully insured adults age 19 and older. If your office is unable to provide Td or Tdap vaccine, patients can be referred to local DHEC health departments. For children ages 7 to 18, Tdap/Td vaccine is available through the VFC program and state vaccine program for participating providers. If your office does not participate with these programs, children ages 7 to 18 can be referred to the local DHEC health department. An appointment is required for vaccine administration; patients can call 1-800-868-0404 to schedule an appointment.

**Enteric Pathogens**

Consider laboratory testing for enteric pathogens for anyone that reports three or more days of diarrhea, any bloody diarrhea, diarrhea plus a fever, or if there are other concerns.

Report any cluster of illnesses to your local public health region and counsel patients who are ill with gastrointestinal symptoms to stay home from work, child care or school and to not prepare food for others until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.

**Other Exposure Risks**

Counsel patients about the risks of exposures to displaced animals to reduce the risk of bite injuries. Individuals working outdoors should consider protection against mosquitos to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses Mosquito breeding sites may be difficult to control for some time following flooding.

## Regional Public Health Offices – 2015

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

### LOW COUNTRY PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

**Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester**  
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 953-0043  
Fax: (843) 953-0051  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 441-1091

**Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper**  
219 S. Lemacks Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: (843) 549-1516  
Fax: (843) 549-6845  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 441-1091

**Allendale, Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg**  
932 Holly Street  
Holly Hill, SC 29059  
Phone: (803) 300-2270  
Fax: (843) 549-6845  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 441-1091

### MIDLANDS PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

**Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, Richland**  
2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: (888) 801-1046

**Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, York**  
PO Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
Phone: (803) 286-9948  
Fax: (803) 286-5418  
Nights / Weekends: (888) 801-1046

**Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, Saluda**  
222 Beaufort Street, NE  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 643-8386  
Nights / Weekends: (888) 801-1046

### PEE DEE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

**Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion**  
145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 915-8845

**Clarendon, Lee, Sumter**  
PO Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 775-9941  
Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845

**Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg**  
1931 Industrial Park Road  
Conway, SC 29526-5482  
Phone: (843) 915-8804  
Fax: (843) 915-6502  
Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845

### UPSTATE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

**Anderson, Oconee**  
220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 260-5801  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

**Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick**  
1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: (864) 227-5947  
Fax: (864) 953-6313  
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

**Cherokee, Greenville, Pickens**  
PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 372-3133  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

### UPSTATE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

(continued)

**Spartanburg, Union**  
PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 372-3133  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

### DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)