

## **URGENT NEED: MEDICAL AND RELIEF PERSONNEL TO HELP HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS**

### **HHS Announcement**

The Federal Government is mobilizing and identifying healthcare professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

As our nation and global community is now aware, the healthcare needs resulting from Katrina are critical.

[http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/hhs\\_announcement.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/hhs_announcement.asp)

### **Guidelines for the Management of Acute Diarrhea**

Increased incidence of acute diarrhea may occur in post-disaster situations where access to electricity, clean water, and sanitary facilities are limited.

In addition, usual hygiene practices may be disrupted and healthcare seeking behaviors may be altered

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/dguidelines.asp>

### **Non-Polio Enterovirus Infections**

Non-polio enteroviruses are very common. They are second only to the "common cold" viruses, the rhinoviruses, as the most common viral infectious agents in humans.

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/enterovirus/non-polio\\_entero.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/enterovirus/non-polio_entero.htm)

### **Hand Hygiene in Emergency Situations**

After an emergency, it can be difficult to find running water. However, it is still important to wash your hands to avoid illness.

It is best to wash your hands with soap and water but when water isn't available, you can use alcohol-based products made for washing hands.

Below are some tips for washing your hands with soap and water and with alcohol-based products.

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/handwashing.asp>

### **Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Vaccine Storage**

Most refrigerated vaccines are relatively stable at room temperature for limited periods of time.

The vaccines of most concern are MMR and Varivax, which are sensitive to elevated temperatures.

Monitor temperatures; don't discard; don't administer affected vaccines until you have discussed with public health authorities.

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/katrinavaccinestorage.asp>

**Healthcare Water System Repair Following Disruption of Water Supply**

Excerpted from the Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities, 2003 - Recommendations of CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Advisory Committee (HICPAC).

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/watersystemrepair.asp>

**Infection Control Prevention Guidance for Community Shelters Following Disasters**

Community shelters provide housing for persons displaced from their homes following natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes.

In these settings, individuals share living space. Some individuals may have health problems, including acute or chronic infectious diseases.

These recommendations provide basic infection control information that will help to prevent exposure to or transmission of infectious agents.

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/commshelters.asp>

**Animal Disposal Following an Emergency**

Most states have their own guidelines on disposal of dead animals, so people with questions regarding the specific situation in their state are highly encouraged to contact local or state health and agricultural officials for clarification.

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/animaldisposal.asp>

**How to Prevent or Respond to a Snake Bite**

After a natural disaster, snakes may have been forced from their natural habitats and move into areas where they would not normally be seen or expected.

When you return to your home, be cautious of snakes that may have sought shelter in your home. If you see a snake in your home immediately call the animal control agency in your county.

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/snakebite.asp>

**Electrical Safety and Generators: Preventing Electrocutions Associated with Generators Plugged Into Household Circuits**

Homeowners should not attempt to install any generator that requires hard-wiring into an existing electrical circuit. Have a trained, qualified electrician hard-wire any generator into a household circuit.

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/elecgenerators.asp>

**Translation of "Keep Food and Water Safe after a Natural Disaster or Power Outage": Spanish**

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/espanol/foodwater.asp>