

# Immunization Recommendations During Floods

## *Information for the General Public*

There is usually no increased risk of getting vaccine-preventable diseases, such as tetanus or Hepatitis A, during a flood. However, those assisting in clean-up efforts may be exposed to bacteria or viruses. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made no flood-related recommendations for Hepatitis A vaccination, there are considerations for tetanus.

Available evidence indicates that complete primary vaccination with tetanus toxoid provides long-lasting protection among most recipients, so **tetanus vaccination is recommended for everyone**.

## Guide to Routine Tetanus Vaccination

<b>DTaP for young children</b>	<b>Tdap for preteens</b>	<b>Td or Tdap** for adults</b>
2, 4 and 6 months	11 through 12 years	Every 10 years <sup>†</sup>
15 through 18 months		
4 through 6 years		

<sup>†</sup>After complete primary tetanus vaccination series, booster doses are recommended at 10-year intervals.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Tdap vaccine is recommended for adolescents and adults to replace a single dose of Td as a booster immunization against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Tdap vaccine is also recommended for pregnant women.

Management of flood-associated wounds (i.e., puncture or contaminated with feces, soil or saliva) should include evaluation of tetanus immunity and the need for a booster dose or other treatment. For clean or minor wounds occurring during the 10-year period following a complete 3-dose tetanus vaccination series or booster, no additional tetanus booster is recommended. For other wounds, a booster is recommended if you have not received a tetanus-containing vaccine within the last five years. See the table below for an overview of your need for a tetanus booster.

## Guide to Tetanus Prophylaxis in Routine Wound Management

	<b>Clean, minor wounds</b>	<b>All other wounds*</b>
<b>Tetanus-Containing</b>	<b>Tetanus-Containing Vaccine</b>	<b>Tetanus-Containing Vaccine</b>
Uncertain or <3 doses	Yes	Yes
≥3 doses	No, if <10 years since last dose	No, if <5 years since last dose
≥3 doses	Yes, if ≥10 years since last dose	Yes, if ≥5 years since last dose

\*Such as, but not limited to: wounds contaminated with dirt, feces, and saliva; puncture wounds; avulsions; and wounds resulting from missiles, crushing, burns, and frostbite.

If you think you may have been exposed to bacteria or viruses during flood clean-up activities, talk to your health care provider about your exposure, vaccination history and possible need for an age-appropriate tetanus booster and protect yourself from serious illness and complications.

Plan ahead and protect yourself and your family from illness. Talk to your health care provider and make sure you are up to date on all recommended immunizations.