



Iowa Department of Public Health Bureau of Immunization and Tuberculosis

Immunization Recommendations During Floods

People commonly ask about the risk of tetanus and hepatitis during floods. Increases in diseases like tetanus and hepatitis have not been associated with flooding. However, flooding may increase risk of exposure to these diseases thus flooding serves as a good reminder to check your immunization records. Immunizations like tetanus and hepatitis are routinely recommended for adults and children.

Tetanus

People are at risk for tetanus infection when they are injured and wounds are contaminated by the environment. Flooding is not shown to increase the risk for tetanus disease, however cleaning up after a flood may increase your risk of getting a wound. Any time you receive a wound, ask your healthcare provider if you need a tetanus-containing vaccine to protect you from disease.

- Adults should receive a booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria-containing vaccine every 10 years. Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine is routinely recommended as it also protects against whooping cough which causes illness every year in Iowa.
- Children need a basic series of four doses of vaccine between 2 and 18 months of age as well as booster doses at 4 to 6 years and 11 to 12 years of age.

Hepatitis A / Hepatitis B

Hepatitis immunizations are recommended for some people, based on behavioral, occupational, medical and other risk factors. Hepatitis risk is typically not increased due to exposure to flood waters.

Please contact your healthcare provider to discuss your need for vaccination.

If you have additional immunization questions contact your:

- Healthcare provider
- Local public health department
- Iowa Department of Public Health, Immunization Program at 1-800-831-6293, or visit the IDPH website at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp>