

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FLORIDA DOH HEALTH ADVISORY
Hurricanes Maria and Irma Evacuees
Version 1.0, October 3, 2017

Background

Hurricanes Irma and Maria resulted in catastrophic damage to Puerto Rico and areas of the U.S. Virgin Islands. As evacuees from this area are arriving in Florida, please remember to ask travel history for the past month and to consider the following risk factors:

- Exposure to sewage contaminated water or untreated water sources:
 - Leptospirosis is prevalent in the Caribbean and is associated with flooding events; clinical presentation can appear similar to dengue or influenza. Antibiotic treatment reduces severe outcomes.
 - Enteric bacteria, *Vibrio* spp., norovirus, Hepatitis A, *Giardia* etc.
- Limited electricity and capacity to refrigerate food and medications: enteric bacteria and toxins, poorly regulated chronic medical conditions
- Mosquito bite exposure: dengue, Zika and chikungunya are endemic to the region; patients with suspect mosquito-borne diseases should be advised to use mosquito bite precautions for 7-10 days post-onset; any traveler should be advised to use these precautions for at least 3 weeks post-arrival to the Florida
- Penetrating injuries: tetanus immune globulin may be indicated depending on a wound assessment and tetanus vaccination history; boosters are recommended for dirty wounds if no vaccination in the 5 years prior to the injury
- Animal bites:
 - Mongoose rabies circulates in Puerto Rico making rabies risk similar to Florida, while rabies risk in the U.S. Virgin Islands is low and the primary concern is bat exposure
 - A group of captive macaque monkeys was released on Puerto Rico during Hurricane Maria; should they bite or scratch someone these animals could transmit Herpes B virus. Antiviral prophylaxis may be considered for potential Herpes B exposures.
- Residence in communal shelters/settings can increase risk of transmission of scabies and common respiratory and enteric infections such as influenza and norovirus.

Please remember to alert your county health department if you suspect or identify reportable conditions, particularly in evacuees residing in shelter settings. Contact your county health department

at: **561-671-4184**

Current Guidance:

Leptospirosis: www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/health_care_workers/index.html

Enterics: www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dfwed/edeb/index.html

Hepatitis A: www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/havfaq.htm

Mosquito-borne Diseases: www.cdc.gov/dengue/index.html; www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/index.html;
www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html

Injuries/Animal Bites: www.cdc.gov/disasters/disease/tetanus.html;

www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/acip_recommendations.html; www.cdc.gov/herpesbvirus/index.html

Influenza: www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm