



**COUNTY OF BERGEN  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

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**8/29/11**

It is always recommended that you should wear plastic or rubber gloves, boots, and other protective clothing needed to avoid contact with floodwater before entering a contaminated area which has been flooded.

Before working in flooded areas, be sure your tetanus vaccination is current (given within the last 10 years).

**Recommendations regarding exposure:**

1. If you were exposed to floodwater, consult healthcare provider if you have experienced a cut, scratch or puncture wound.
2. If you have swallowed floodwater, consult healthcare provider should you experience nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, muscle aches, and fever.
3. If your last known tetanus vaccine was more than 10 years ago, consult your healthcare provider to discuss getting a tetanus booster.

The Bergen County Department of Health Services (BCDHS) recommends the administration of tetanus vaccine on a case by case basis as determined by a physician.

However, if a contracting municipality makes the decision to provide and administer tetanus containing vaccine to their local emergency responders and requests additional nursing staff from Bergen County Department of Health Services, the following criteria must be met:

- 1.) Municipal nurse or a nursing agency, when in place, should be utilized and exhausted prior to the request for additional staff.
- 2.) Physician prescription and or standing orders must be available on site.
- 3.) Protocol, procedures and equipment to provide initial emergency care are available for the program.
- 4.) Individual consent forms are on site.

Most cases of sickness associated with flood conditions are brought about by ingesting contaminated food or water. The symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, muscle aches and fever.

Tetanus can be acquired from contaminated soil or water entering broken areas of the skin, such as cuts, scratches or puncture wounds. Tetanus is an infectious disease that affects the nervous system and causes severe muscle spasms, known as lockjaw. The symptoms may appear weeks after exposure and may begin as a headache, but later develop into difficulty swallowing or opening the jaw.

**If you get a deep or dirty cut or puncture wound and it has been 5 years or more since your last tetanus vaccination,** see a doctor so they can determine whether a tetanus booster is needed. Wounds that are associated with a flood be evaluated for tetanus; a physician may recommend a tetanus immunization.

**Vaccine Purchase Information:**

<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Brandname/ Tradename</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Contact Phone Number</b>
Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)	Adacel®	Sanofi Pasteur	Tdap vaccine may be added to certain existing Sanofi contracts with your agency. For contract-specific information, please contact your Sanofi representative or the Sanofi Customer Center at 1-800-822-2463
Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)	Boostrix®	GlaxoSmithKline	Tdap vaccine may be added to certain existing GSK contracts with your agency. For contract-specific information, please contact your GSK representative or the GSK Customer Center at 1-888-825-5249
Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids (TD)		Merck	TD vaccine may be added to certain existing Merck contracts with your agency. For contract-specific information, please contact your Merck representative or the Merck Customer Center at 1-877-829-6372
Tetanus & Diphtheria Toxoids (TD)	Decavac®	Sanofi Pasteur	TD vaccine may be added to certain existing Sanofi contracts with your agency. For contract-specific information, please contact your Sanofi representative or the Sanofi Customer Center at 1-800-822-2463

You may also contact your local pharmacy or vaccine distributor in your area.

**For additional questions please contact:****BCDHS Public Health Nurses**

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**Reference:** <http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/floodCleanup.html>