



DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS VACCINATIONS FOR RESPONDERS TO HURRICANE STRICKEN AREAS

(Omaha, NE) The Douglas County Health Department is providing immunizations to individuals traveling to the Gulf Coast to provide assistance with relief efforts as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that all responders be up-to-date on their Tetanus/ diphtheria (Td) and Hepatitis B immunizations before they leave. For individuals that are anticipating staying in close quarters, the meningococcal and Hepatitis A vaccines should also be considered according to the Douglas County Health Department. Vaccinations will be offered through the Douglas County Health Department immunization clinic by calling (402) 444-6118 for an appointment.

“Any individual participating in cleanup efforts in the area affected by Hurricane Katrina is advised to get a Tetanus/diphtheria (Td) immunization if they have not received one in the past 10 years,” says Dr. Adi Pour, Director of the Douglas County Health Department. In addition, adults who have not had Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccines will also have an opportunity to get those shots.

Tetanus/diphtheria immunizations protect against bacterial infections resulting from a deep cut or puncture wound. Hepatitis A and B immunizations prevent infections that can cause liver disease. Hepatitis A can be transmitted through ingestion of contaminated water or food. Hepatitis B lives in blood and other body fluids, which can be the vehicle for transmission.

Safety experts are advising responders to be sure to wear heavy, protective shoes, gloves and goggles as protective measures in the hurricane ravaged area.

If you are unsure of your immunization status you may want to contact your health care provider to obtain your immunization records or guidance. Immunizations will be provided to responders by the Douglas County Health Department for the cost of the vaccine. The administration fee will be waived under these circumstances.

These services are also available for evacuees that are moving to Douglas County or are already in this community. “Hopefully, this will provide an easy one-stop place for individuals needing vaccinations and reduce the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases,” according to Dr. Pour.

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