






It is important for local residents to be informed about Medical Special Needs Shelters before a disaster occurs.

Disasters/emergencies can be defined as events that cause severe damage, injury, or loss of life and/or property; examples are floods, explosions, earthquakes, hurricanes, freezes, and terrorist attacks.

Call 2-1-1 for a single access point to updates and information.



There are even more ways to get up-to-date health information, news and emergency updates from DHH.

-  www.facebook.com/LaHealthDept
-  www.twitter.com/La_Health_Dept
-  www.myhealthla.org

**Office of Public Health
Center for Community Preparedness**
8919 World Ministry Ave., Ste. B
Baton Rouge, LA 70810
Phone: 225-763-3535
Fax: 225-763-5727
www.oph.dhh.louisiana.gov

REGIONAL CONTACTS

REGION 1

(504) 599-0100

1450 Poydras St., Ste 1200, New Orleans

REGION 2

(225) 925-7200

7173 A Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge

REGION 3

(985) 447-0916

1434 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux

REGION 4

(337) 262-5311

825 Kaliste Saloom, Lafayette

REGION 5

(337) 475-3200

707A East Prien Lake Road, Lake Charles,

REGION 6

(318) 487-5262

5604 B Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria

REGION 7

(318) 676-7489

1525 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport

REGION 8

(318) 361-7201

1650 Desaird St., Monroe

REGION 9

(985) 871-1300

2154 Koop Dr., Mandeville

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Medical Special Needs Shelters in Louisiana



What is a medical special needs shelter?

Medical special needs shelters provide refuge to individuals who may not be eligible for a general shelter because of their medical needs but do not require hospitalization. The shelters are a last resort, temporary living arrangement, providing care until the emergency/disaster is over and the parish of residence is safe for return.

Do I qualify for a medical special needs shelter?

An individual and caregiver can be assigned to a medical special needs shelter if the person needs medical assistance. When one or more shelters open, a toll-free number will be available for residents to call to determine if an individual meets admission criteria.



What is expected of me at the shelter?

All individuals are required to register upon admission to the medical special needs shelter and abide by rules set by the shelter. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) staff will register each special needs individual and caregiver. Residents should bring proof of identification, health insurance information, the name of an emergency contact person and his/her phone number.

What do I need to bring to the shelter?

- ▶ All medications (5-7 day supply is recommended) in the original bottles.
- ▶ All medical supplies e.g. dressing supplies, colostomy supplies, etc.
- ▶ Medical equipment (feeding tube supplies/pumps, monitors, oxygen and oxygen concentrators, nebulizers, walkers, canes, wheelchairs, etc.).
- ▶ Special foods, nutritional and tube feeding supplements.
- ▶ Personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, shampoo, soap, diapers and extra clothing, etc., for 5 days.
- ▶ Personal entertainment or miscellaneous items, e.g. books, puzzles.
- ▶ Identification, health insurance cards, dressing care instructions and medical orders.
- ▶ All medications and equipment labeled with name, address and phone number.

The Medical Special Needs Shelter is not responsible for the loss of personal items.

How do I get to the shelter?

If you or a family member need assistance with evacuation, register with your local Office of Emergency Preparedness before a disaster or emergency occurs. This will allow transportation assistance with transportation.

Listen to the Louisiana Emergency Alert System for evacuation information on local radio and television stations for the affected areas. Public service announcements will provide information regarding the availability of local pickup locations for those needing transportation.

What are the basic rules in a medical special needs shelter?

- ▶ Smoking is NOT ALLOWED
- ▶ Alcohol/illegal drugs are NOT ALLOWED
- ▶ Firearms/weapons are NOT ALLOWED
- ▶ Children are only allowed to stay in medical special needs shelters if they have special medical needs. Otherwise, children will shelter at other locations.
- ▶ Disorderly conduct or disruptive behavior is NOT ALLOWED
- ▶ Service animals are allowed in medical special needs shelters, but pets and other animals will shelter elsewhere. If you bring a service animal to the medical special needs shelter, you must bring a kennel, food and supplies for the animal.
- ▶ Each individual admitted to the medical special needs shelter is allowed one caregiver.