

Vaccines, snake bites and hidden floodwater dangers

SAFETY TIPS FOR DURING AND AFTER THE STORM

Are there vaccine requirements or recommendations for people in shelters?

- Yes, people in shelters, including staff and volunteers, should practice standard precautions and good personal hygiene when in a shelter. This includes washing hands with soap and water and using hand sanitizers to prevent disease transmission.
- Recommended vaccinations are:
 - Tetanus/diphtheria (Td/Tdap) vaccination within the past 10 years
 - Hepatitis A (HAV)
 - Influenza (flu) vaccine when available
 - Chickenpox, up to date as recommended by LA Immunization Schedule
 - Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) as recommended by LA Immunization Schedule

What are the recommended vaccinations for rescue and recovery personnel?

- Tetanus/diphtheria (Td/Tdap) vaccination within the past 10 years
- Hepatitis A vaccine is NOT recommended unless the worker is likely to be exposed to blood (such as attending to a person with open or bleeding wounds).

What vaccinations are recommended for people after the flood?

It is recommended that anyone planning to enter flooded or damaged areas be up to date on their tetanus/diphtheria vaccinations (vaccinated within the past 10 years).

What should I do if I get bitten by a snake?

Stay out of floodwater to the extent possible. Take extra care regarding wildlife as the threats posed by wild animals, reptiles and insects may increase during times of flooding. Venomous snakes, alligators, leeches, ants and mosquitoes are all potentially threatening creatures that you may encounter during a flood. **If you are bitten by a snake, take note of what the snake looked like and go to a hospital.**

Are there other threats found in floodwater?

Do not drive through floodwater. Water only a few feet deep can cause a vehicle to float or stall. Floodwater may also hide other dangers, such as exposed electrical wires or sharp objects. **The safest course of action is to stay out of floodwater.**

