

# Vaccination After Flood Exposure



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES

People assisting in clean-up efforts after a flood may be exposed to viruses and bacteria. Health care providers should assess the exposure and vaccination history of patients who may have been exposed to bacteria or viruses during a flood.

## Guide to routine tetanus vaccination

- **DTaP:** For young children at 2, 4, and 6 months; 15–18 months; and 4–6 years.
- **Tdap:** For preteens 11–12 years old
- **Td or Tdap\*:** For adults, with a booster dose recommended at 10-year intervals.

Management of flood-associated wounds should include evaluation of tetanus immunity and the need for a booster dose or other treatment.

## Guide to tetanus prophylaxis in routine wound management

Tetanus-containing vaccine prior to exposure	If clean, minor wounds	For all other wounds**
Administer tetanus-containing vaccine?		
Uncertain or <3 doses	Yes	Yes
3 or more doses	No, if less than 10 years since last dose.	No, if less than 5 years since last dose
3 or more doses	Yes, if 10 or more years since last dose	Yes, if 5 or more years since last dose

Health care providers should assess patients' exposure, vaccination history, and need for an age-appropriate tetanus booster to protect them from serious illness.

\*Tdap vaccine is recommended for adolescents and adults to replace a single dose of Td as a booster immunization against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Either Td or Tdap may be used for wound management in individuals that have received at least one Tdap dose. Tdap vaccine is also recommended for pregnant people.

\*\*Including wounds contaminated with dirt, feces, saliva; puncture wounds; wounds from crushing; burns; frostbite.