

# Vaccine Recommendations During a Natural Disaster

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# Tetanus

- Tetanus-prone wounds fairly common after major disaster:
  - compound fractures
  - deep penetrating wounds
  - wounds containing foreign bodies (esp. wood splinters)
  - wounds with extensive tissue damage (eg. contusions or burns)
  - any wound obviously contaminated with soil, dust or horse manure (esp. if topical disinfection delayed > 4 hours).

# Tetanus

- Administer Tdap adolescents and adults who have no documentation of TT-containing vax in past 10 yrs
  - Regardless of interval since last Td
- 1 in 12 reported cases of tetanus had no reported injury or lesion.

# Tetanus

- Administer primary series of 3 doses of TT-containing vax to adults who did not receive DTP/DTaP as a child, or whose vax hx is unknown
  - **Use Tdap to replace a dose of Td** in series (preferably as the 1<sup>st</sup> dose in the series)
  - Separate 1<sup>st</sup> 2 doses by 4 weeks; administer 3rd dose  $\geq$  6 mos after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose

# Hepatitis B

- Use standard precautions to protect against exposure to blood or blood-containing fluids.
- If a responder who is not fully vaccinated comes into contact with blood or body fluids, take post exposure precautions according to published recommendations [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/r5011a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/r5011a1.htm)

# Vaccines in Crowded Group Settings

- MMR for everyone  $\geq 12$  m/o and born during or after 1957, unless documentation of 2 doses
- Varicella vax for everyone  $\geq 12$  m/o unless they:
  - Have a reliable hx of chickenpox
  - Have documentation of 2 doses of varicella vax
  - Were born in U.S. before 1980

# Influenza Vaccine

If during flu season and flu vax available:

- Administer flu vaccines to everyone 6 months of age and older (the public and responders), unless there is a valid contraindication.

# Hepatitis A

- For responders, the risk of disease is extremely low
  - Hep A vax not recommended for responders
  - In past 20 years, responders working in circumstances similar to Katrina did not get Hep A
- Hep A vax not recommended for evacuees, unless exposure to Hep A is suspected



# Tornado Springfield, MA June 2011





# Registry

- In Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, where many evacuees lost personal records, the States' IISs were invaluable in the relief effort – part of which is to vaccinate children and adults.
- > 8,300 queries were made to the Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids Statewide (LINKS) regarding vax histories for evacuees.
- LINKS remained functional because of a backup system in Baton Rouge.



# Don't become part of the problem

- Make sure all your vaccines are up to date
- Carry your vaccine record with you
  - If it's not documented, it's not done

# Recommended Responder Vaccinations

To address vaccine-preventable disease risks to responders:

- Tetanus if not up to date
- Hepatitis B if patient care or exposure to bodily fluids
- If working in large ECs, other vaccines as recommended for evacuees