



News

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For Immediate Release

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Health District Advice to Stay Healthy After Floods

Wichita Falls, Texas- The Wichita Falls-Wichita County Public Health District will be releasing health-related information for the citizens of Wichita Falls and Wichita County concerning recent flooding.

Many health and safety risks come with flooding conditions, and the department website, <http://www.health.wichitafallstx.gov/>, and Facebook page will be regularly updated to keep citizens informed and safe as weather conditions develop.

The WFWCPHD is offering some initial tips for those affected by the heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding:

- Please throw away any food that comes in contact with flood waters or was in a refrigerator without power.
- Eating unrefrigerated or contaminated/spoiled food can lead to serious illness due to bacterial growth. Remember, food does not have to smell bad to be bad.
- If cleaning out a flooded home, please avoid skin contact with contaminated materials or water and keep the area well-ventilated.
- Keep children and pets out of flood waters; do not let them play in it.
- Resist the temptation to begin cleaning up before the water recedes. Play it safe and wait until the water has gone away completely.
- If you have an open wound or cut that has been exposed to flood waters and have not had a tetanus shot in the last five years, you should get a booster shot.
- If you will be working in a flooded area and have not had a tetanus shot in the last 10 years, you should get a shot as a precaution.

Anyone who has come into contact with flood waters and needs a tetanus shot can come to the Health District building at 1700 Third St., Wichita Falls, and receive one during normal business hours: Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ideally, tetanus vaccines should be administered within 48-72 hours from the time of the exposure incident (i.e. flood waters and/or open wound) to be effective. Hepatitis A vaccines are also available for those who may have been exposed to sewage.

After a flood, officials anticipate an increase in the mosquito population. Many mosquito species specifically lay their eggs in low-lying areas in anticipation of flooding. Other mosquito species will take advantage of the abundant water sources to breed as well. Citizens should take precautions to prevent mosquito bites before, during, and after a flood by wearing an EPA-approved insect repellent. District Vector Control workers are closely monitoring the mosquito situation. If there is a large increase in adult mosquitoes, workers will spray, however, they cannot spray while it is raining or if the winds are greater than 10mph. The spraying will take place when mosquitoes are most active. Once the flood waters have receded and are no longer flowing, workers will resume treating standing water for mosquito larvae. For questions concerning mosquito control, you can call 940-761-7890.

The Wichita Falls-Wichita County Public Health District will continue to provide health-related information as the flooding situation further develops.

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