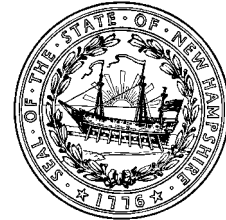


NH Department of Health and Human Services  
129 Pleasant Street - State Office Park South  
Concord, NH 03301



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT**  
Public Information Office  
603-271-4957

## **DHHS Recommends Tetanus Vaccinations for Those Individuals Who Will Be in Contact with Floodwater; Offers Vaccine in Keene**

**Concord, NH** – The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recommends that those working in flooded areas who might be exposed to contaminated materials, such as floodwater, should make sure that they have received a tetanus booster shot within the last 10 years. Individuals, particularly first responders, contractors, highway workers or even those who are cleaning out flooded basements, who might be exposed to floodwater or items that have been contaminated should receive their tetanus shots if they have not had one in 10 years.

Individuals who need shots should contact their primary care doctor to receive a tetanus booster. Additionally, DHHS, working with the Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, will offer free tetanus shots for those who need them at the Nurse Clinic, reached through the main entrance of the hospital. Those interested should call Cheshire Medical Center at 354-5454 x3816 and leave word when they will come in to receive their shot.

“We want to protect the public health of all those who have been impacted by the flooding,” said DHHS Commissioner John Stephen. “Our first advice is to avoid floodwater and flooded areas if possible. If you must come in contact with flooded areas, make sure you have had your tetanus vaccination.”

DHHS asks the public to:

- Avoid floodwater and flooded areas, as floodwater should be considered contaminated. Wear protection if you must travel through water that is part of a flood. Disinfect any items that come in contact with floodwater. Use ¼ cup of bleach per gallon of water as a disinfectant
- If you use well water and your well has been flooded, make sure the well is tested and disinfected before using water to wash dishes, brush your teeth, wash and prepare food, wash your hands, make ice, or make baby formula
- Remember that moisture accelerates mold growth, which can cause disease and allergic reactions. Remove standing water and wet items from indoors as soon as possible

For more information, visit the NH Department of Health and Human Services at [www.dhhs.nh.gov](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov) or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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