BPHC Bulletin
Bureau of Primary Health Care
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

During an emergency, health centers play an important role in delivering critical services and assisting with the local community response. **The purpose of this bulletin is to provide key guidance documents to help you prepare for and respond to Hurricane Irma.**

BPHC staff is tracking impact data on delivery sites affected by the storm. Your project officer (PO) or other BPHC staff will be in touch with you to gather information about your operational status and answer any questions related to your grant or scope of project. We appreciate any information you can proactively provide on your operational status. Please contact your PO with any updates as soon as you are able. We will be sure to be as flexible as possible knowing that you as individuals will be responding to your own challenges.

- Health centers may request a **change in scope of project to add a temporary site(s)** in response to emergency events through a streamlined process outlined in Program Assistance Letter (PAL 2014-05): Updated Process for Requesting a Change in Scope to Add Temporary Sites in Response to Emergency Events
- Following a Public Health Emergency Declaration by the HHS Secretary, HRSA allows eligible entities in affected states to **immediately enroll for the 340B Drug Program**. To enroll, contact the 340B Prime Vendor Program: apexusanswers@340bpvp.com or 1-888-340-2787.
- The **Federal Tort Claims Act Health Center Policy Manual** provides additional guidance related to emergencies in Section F: FTCA Coverage When Responding to Emergency Events

If you have questions about FTCA coverage, contact the BPHC Helpline online or by phone: 877-974-BPHC (2742) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays (except federal holidays). For specific questions related to your health center grant or scope of project, please contact your project officer.

HRSA also suggests that all health centers:

- Review your emergency preparedness plans, including those for evacuating.
- Update employee contact information – including phone numbers, for when email access is disrupted.
- Review plans to safeguard facilities; medical supplies, including perishable pharmaceuticals; and medical records.
- Review plans for relocating patient contact information outside the impacted area in case of evacuation.
- If evacuation appears imminent, document the condition of your facilities by photos or video before departing for insurance/disaster assistance purposes.
- Maintain contact with local emergency preparedness officials and follow their instructions.

Emergency Preparedness Resources

In the event you are sharing emergency preparedness resources for your patients or staff, we have included the following websites and social media links.

Websites

- FEMA's Hurricane Irma Webpage
- USA.gov Hurricane Irma Webpage
- PHE Hurricane Irma Webpage
- Ready.gov

Social Media Accounts

- PHEGov – Twitter feed for public health emergency information on disaster health preparedness, response and recovery. Brought to you by HHS' Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).
- CDCEmergency – Twitter feed for information from CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR).
- USAGov and FEMA on Twitter for storm updates.

Spanish-Language Websites

- Cómo prepararse para un huracán o una tormenta tropical (CDC)
- Información sobre la preparación para los consumidores (FDA)
- Seguridad de los alimentos para consumidores que regresan a sus hogares después de un huracán y/o inundación (FDA)

Spanish-Language Social Media Accounts

- HHSLatino
- CDCespanol
- FEMAespanol
- GobiernoUSA