



# Flood Response Actions

## For Administrators

Flooding can pose significant risks to the safety, health, and well-being of patients, staff, and the community served by healthcare facilities. As climate change continues to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation events, it is essential for clinics to have a comprehensive plan in place to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flood events.

*This Flood Response Actions document provides a step-by-step guide for facility administrators and/or the designated Weather Resilience Lead to ensure their clinics are ready to protect the health of their patients and staff during periods of flooding.*

*The plan is divided into three sections, when a flood watch or warning is issued, during flooding, and after a flood event. The actions and checklist items cover critical areas such as facility preparation, communication plans, patient and staff safety, and post-flood recovery. By following the guidance outlined in this document, healthcare facilities can minimize the negative impacts of flooding on their operations and the health of the communities they serve, while also ensuring a swift and effective recovery process.*

## Flooding is likely (several days out - active advisory or watch)

- Monitor local weather forecasts and emergency alerts for updates on the flood situation.
- Review and activate facility emergency plans. If your facility is likely to be flooded, consider taking proactive steps to cancel patient appointments and send staff home who may get caught in flood waters.
- Be ready to close the facility and evacuate staff at a moment's notice. Plan evacuation routes based on local response information. Make sure the routes avoid flooded areas or roads.
- Ensure all staff are aware of the situation and any specific responsibilities during a flood event. Ensure they know to avoid driving or walking in flood waters.
- Essential equipment, supplies, documents, and medications should be raised off the floor, stored on higher ground, or kept in waterproof containers.
- Clear exterior drains and gutters.
- Lock and seal any low-lying windows.
- If the facility commonly floods in the basement or ground-level, consider renting or purchasing a sump-pump.
- Check that emergency supplies, such as sandbags, water pumps, soap, and first aid kits, are readily available.
- If a flood watch is issued, implement measures to prevent water from entering the facility, such as using sandbags and water barriers. Follow guidance from local emergency management and public safety authorities regarding sandbagging operations.
- Identify and secure important documents, equipment, and medications that may be at risk of water damage.
- Communicate with patients about potential disruptions to clinic services and provide guidance on staying safe during a flood.
- Coordinate with local emergency management officials, healthcare facilities, healthcare coalition, and/or local service providers to share resources and information.

