



## **Hospitals – Nursing Facilities – Assisted Living Residences – Adult Day Care**

In the event of a hurricane and the strong likelihood of flooding, the Rhode Island Department of Health monitors areas of concern in licensed healthcare facilities and requests that all healthcare facilities, assisted living, or adult day care that meet any of the following criteria contact the Office of Facilities Regulation at 401-222-2566, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. After hours, report emergencies to HEALTH at 401-272-5952.

### **Criteria:**

- The facility experienced water damage or any portion of the facility's buildings/grounds are/were flooded;
- There is no power or there was a loss of power (i.e. the facility was using alternate power from a generator);
- The plumbing is slow or not draining and/or toilets are not usable;
- There is evidence of waste water/sewage backing up into the facility;
- You have a staff shortage due to flooding situations;
- Visitors or staff need to walk through flooded areas or areas that were flooded to get into the facility;
- There is an unsafe/unsanitary build-up of trash/waste materials due to delayed trash removal;
- You are concerned about any other situation.

### **Food Safety:**

Your Certified Food Managers (food services) will receive specific guidance from HEALTH about food safety.

General information about food protection during and after power outages can be found at: <http://www.health.ri.gov/foodprotection/about/poweroutages/index.php>

### **Norovirus and Other Illness:**

There is a high potential for illness due to Norovirus and other disease-causing organisms from exposure to contaminated floodwaters. Individuals who are ill with vomiting or diarrhea should be excluded from working in food service, healthcare, and day care areas for a minimum of 48 hours after the cessation of symptoms. All employees should follow, as always, strict hand-washing practices to prevent illness. Any questions concerning these matters should be directed to the Office of Facilities Regulation at 222-2566, Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Report after-hour emergencies to the on-call administrator at HEALTH at **401-272-5952**.

### **Flooded Wells:**

Facility wells that were flooded should be reported to the Office of Drinking Water Quality at 401-222-6867.

More information about flooding can be obtained on the HEALTH website at: <http://www.health.ri.gov/emergency/flooding/for/providers/>