



Iowa Department of Public Health
Bureau of Immunization and Tuberculosis

Tetanus Immunization Recommendations During Disaster Situations

During a disaster situation, people commonly ask questions about the risk of tetanus. Increases in diseases like tetanus are not typically seen following disaster situations. However, injuries received during or following a disaster may increase risk of this disease thus serving as a good reminder to check your immunization records. A tetanus containing immunization is routinely recommended for adults and children.

Tetanus

People are at risk for tetanus infection when they are injured and wounds are contaminated by the environment.

Anytime you get a wound, contact your health care provider to see if you need to receive a tetanus containing vaccine to protect you from disease.

- Adults: Should receive a booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria containing vaccine every 10 years. Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine is routinely recommended as it also protects against whooping cough which causes illness every year in Iowa.
- Children: Need a basic series of four doses of vaccine between 2 and 18 months of age as well as booster doses at 4 to 6 years and 11 to 12 years of age.

Please contact your healthcare provider to discuss your need for vaccination.

If you have additional immunization questions contact your:

- Health care provider
- Local public health department
- Iowa Department of Public Health, Immunization Program at 1-800-831-6293, or Visit the Immunization program website at www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=ImmHome