



HEALTH ALERT

SEVERE WEATHER & FLASH FLOOD POTENTIAL

July 31, 2025 – August 1, 2025

Guidance for Hospitals, Diagnostic and Treatment Centers, Nursing Homes, Adult Care Facilities, Homecare, Hospice and, Dialysis Centers

A high-impact storm system is currently affecting New York State, with multiple hazards expected including flash flooding, damaging winds, and the potential for severe thunderstorms. A **Moderate Risk for Flash Flooding** has been issued by the National Weather Service for southeastern portions of the state, including the Mid-Hudson Valley, New York City, and Long Island, where rainfall rates may exceed 2 inches per hour.

Health and Residential Care providers and agencies are strongly urged to review their emergency operations plans, ensure all backup systems are functioning properly, and remain in close communication with local emergency management agencies. Providers should report any service or infrastructure disruptions to the Department's Surge Operations Center immediately by dialing (917) 909-2676.

The latest information on active weather watches warnings, and advisories can be found on the [National Weather Service Alert Page](#).

KEY POINTS

Flash Flood Watches & Warnings Issued: Multiple watches and warnings are now active for southeastern New York, including NYC, Long Island, and the Hudson Valley. A Moderate Risk for Flash Flooding (up to 70% probability) has been issued for these areas.

Timing of Severe Weather: The heaviest rainfall and strongest storms are expected between 3:00 PM and 9:00 PM today. Storms may continue through the night in some regions.

Rainfall Rates and Totals: Anticipated rainfall rates of 1–3 inches per hour, with isolated locations receiving 3–5 inches or more, especially in downstate areas. Rainfall may exceed subway and sewer capacity, leading to significant urban flooding.

Severe Thunderstorm Threat:

- Strong-to-severe thunderstorms expected in the NYC Metro by late afternoon.
- Wind gusts up to 60 mph likely.
- Large hail and isolated tornadoes are possible.

Hazards: Expect roadway flooding, basement, and facility flooding, power outages, and transportation disruptions. Avoid travel during peak storm periods unless absolutely necessary.

Additional information from the National Weather Service Alert Page can be found [here](#).



| HEALTH CARE FACILITY PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES CHECKLIST | |
|--|--|
| | Ensure that adequate staffing will be available for the duration of the storm. |
| | Check supplies to ensure that adequate supplies of food, medical supplies, and bedding are sufficient for the duration of the storm, if resupply becomes unavailable. |
| | Review emergency facility plans and test emergency standby power to ensure systems are in good working order. |
| | Test emergency generators to verify that they are operating properly. Ensure fuel supplies for generators and food preparation are adequate to cover operations during the 24-hour period leading up to the storm and for at least 72 hours following the storm. |
| | Consider appropriately re-locating patients who have needs consistent with electric power generation (BiPAPs, accommodative devices, electronic monitoring etc.) within the facility, if the facility does not have facility-wide electric power generation abilities. |
| | Confirm that all systems necessary for disaster planning and response are supported by generator power. |
| | Review emergency plans and confirm 24/7 contact information for key staff in case emergent communication is needed. |
| | Check eFINDS supplies (i.e., barcode scanner, wrist bands, and paper tracking logs) and ensure that staff who have been trained on the use of the system are ready and available to perform this function. |
| | Update business and emergency contact information in the Health Commerce System Communications Directory to ensure important alerts and notifications are received by the facility. |
| | Request emergency assistance through the local Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and/or local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) if needed during and following the storm. |
| | Report disruption of services or infrastructure to the New York State Department of Health. |
| | Facilities in need of evacuation should immediately notify the appropriate New York State Department of Health Regional Office. |

REMINDERS:

- The Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS) – A special HERDS survey may be conducted to capture important information regarding a facility’s status during an emergency.
- eFINDS Patient and Resident tracking application: In the event that evacuation of hospitals, nursing homes, or adult care facilities becomes necessary, the New York State Department of Health is reminding facilities that use of the eFINDS system will be required to track the movement of all patients and residents between sending (evacuating) and receiving facilities. If facilities have questions or need assistance with eFINDS, please email efinds@health.ny.gov.
- Early Notification for Potential Facility Hazard / Evacuations: If you believe there may be a need to evacuate your facility due to flooding or other storm-related hazards, please notify the Surge Operations Center (SOC) as early as possible at **(917) 909-2676**. Even if you later determine that evacuation is not necessary and need to cancel the notification, early contact will help ensure we can adequately prepare and mobilize resources.