



HEALTH ALERT

MAJOR WINTER STORM EVENT

February 22nd-23rd, 2026

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

A major winter storm is expected to impact the Capital District and Metropolitan Area Regions with snow in excess of 12" starting Sunday, February 22nd, 2026 and continuing into Monday.

Blizzard warnings have been posted for the NYC and Long Island areas, with the lower Hudson Valley under Winter Storm Warnings and Watches. The latest information on active weather watches, warnings, and advisories can be found on the [National Weather Service Website](#) and entering your zip code on the top left of the screen.

In anticipation of this event, health and residential care providers are strongly encouraged to review the winter storm guidance previously distributed, (and your) facility emergency response plans, and ensure backup systems are functioning properly. Additionally, providers should report any disruption of services or infrastructure to the Department's State Medical Operations Coordination Center.

KEY POINTS

- In the Lower Hudson Valley and NYC/Long Island region, snow is forecasted to begin on Sunday afternoon, with widespread heavy snow blanketing the area through the Monday morning commute; snowfall rates may reach 2-3" per hour and travel becoming dangerous or impossible. Total accumulations of 12"-18" are expected across much of the area, with wind gusts sustained of 35-40mph reaching 55+ mph Sunday evening and through the overnight hours. It is anticipated that the storm will make travel extremely hazardous or impossible at times for staff both coming to or leaving work Sunday night into Monday morning. Providers are strongly encouraged to review staffing plans and solidify alternate arrangements, including additional staff and ensure supplies are available on site in case staff need to stay beyond their assigned shifts. The combination of heavy snow and high winds may also lead to downed trees and power outages.
- Coastal Flood and Gale Watches have been posted for Long Island, with widespread moderate flooding of 3 ft possible during high tide on Sunday night overnight. For the latest coastal flooding forecasts including predictions of how your facility may be impacted, see the [NWS NYC Coastal Flooding Page](#).
- In the Capital District Region, 2"-6" is forecasted by the end of the day on Monday, with Winter Storm Watches and Warnings posted for areas in the Upper Hudson Valley and immediate Capital District areas. Maximum sustained wind gusts up to 40 mph may cause downed tree limbs and power lines.
- Pursuant to Public Health Law (PHL) section 2803(1)(g) and 10 NYCRR 405.9, all patients are entitled to an appropriate discharge plan. Comparable discharge-planning requirements apply to OMH-licensed psychiatric programs under Mental Hygiene Law 29.15 and 14 NYCRR Parts 580 and 590. Sending any patient, including those who are unhoused, to the street during blizzard events is not an appropriate discharge plan. A discharge plan that includes an arrangement for an individual to return to and be housed in a shelter for an unhoused patient may be an appropriate discharge outlet during inclement weather. Please ensure that the discharge planning staff in your hospital(s) are informed of this.



Department of Health

- Please report disruption of services or infrastructure to the New York State Department of Health State Medical Operations Coordination Center at **(917) 909-2676**. Emergency requests for assistance should go through County Emergency Management Offices.
- The Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS) - HERDS surveys 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.

HEALTHCARE 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.
	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.