

## Infection Prevention Resources - Natural Disaster

This document provides infection prevention resources for non-hospital healthcare facilities that are providing patient care with limited resources due to disruptions from Hurricane Helene. Decisions about whether and when to reopen for patient care are beyond the scope of this guidance and should be made by the facilities in consultation with any relevant regulatory agencies. Please submit infection prevention related inquiries to [infectionprevention@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:infectionprevention@dhhs.nc.gov).

### [Emergency Management Playbook](#) (ashe.org with Project Firstline)

An overview of infection prevention and control considerations for healthcare facilities during emergency management, including:

- Surge capacity
- Patient safety
- Essential utilities
- Service priority
- Essential supplies
- Recovery resources

### [Remediation and infection control considerations for reopening healthcare facilities closed due to extensive water and wind damage fact sheet](#) (cdc.gov)

Overview of resuming operations in healthcare facilities, with links to multiple recommendations from governmental agencies and professional associations. Topics include:

- Mold remediation
- Restoration of medical equipment
- Restoration of utilities (Water, electric and ventilation)

This document also provides additional resources for specialty areas, such as:

- Dialysis
- Laboratory
- Radiology
- Dental offices

### [Healthcare Water System Repair and Recovery Following a Boil Water Alert or Disruption of Water Supply](#)

Information for the following after a boil water advisory

- Wound care
- Sterile processing
- Steps for remediation of water system
- Waterborne opportunistic pathogens
- Hand hygiene
- Humidifiers
- Dialysis and dental water
- Environmental monitoring

### [FDA Offers Tips about Medical Devices and Natural Disasters](#) (fda.gov)

The FDA outlines considerations when evaluating medical equipment impacted by:

- Power outage
- Sterility concerns
- Low inventory of single-use medical supplies
- Water contamination
- Heat and humidity

### [Guidelines for Personal Hygiene During an Emergency](#) (cdc.gov)

Information on building a portable handwash station and personal hygiene during an emergency, including:

- Washing your hands\*
- Wound management
- Safe bathing
- Safe diapering