

Emergency Services for Patients Affected by Natural Disasters



Natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods can often lead to homelessness and housing instability for individuals and families. This new fact sheet resource will identify all federal programs that assist health centers with connecting patients to resources they may need in the event of a natural disaster.

BEFORE A DISASTER



Develop contingency plans for testing and viral load monitoring.



Stockpile essential supplies, including test kits, antiretroviral medications, a first aid kit, a thermometer, and hand sanitizer.



Pack an emergency kit with at least a 30-day supply of HIV medications, medical records, and provider contacts.



Pack condoms and other prevention methods. Condoms are highly effective in preventing HIV transmission and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Be sure to include enough to last at least 30 days. Include additional prevention supplies such as lubricant to reduce the risk of condom breakage.



Plan by identifying alternate care options, clinics, and pharmacies near the potential evacuation locations.



Stay connected with healthcare providers and support networks. Check to see if they offer virtual services.



Use a patient portal if available. Online patient portals can store medication lists, recent lab results, and tools to contact providers or change pharmacies. Having digital access to this data ensures preparedness in case physical documents are lost. If you don't use a portal, keep this information in your emergency kit.

DURING A DISASTER



Check to see if the local pharmacy can **transfer prescriptions** to the relocation site



Check for local health departments **mobile units** or "pop up" locations



Seek out community resources to support transportation, housing, and other supports during the natural disaster

AFTER A DISASTER



Contact HIV provider and resume regular appointments



Update HIV providers on any missed doses, lost medications, or changes in living situation



Replace any lost medical records\documents



Start to rebuild your natural disaster preparedness plan



Reconnect with friends, family, and other community organizations for social support

By supporting preparedness, facilitating access to care during emergencies, and guiding patients through recovery, health care professionals play a critical role in protecting continuity of treatment for PLHIV. **A coordinated, patient-directed approach helps ensure that individuals remain engaged in care and maintain their health, even in the face of significant disruption.**

Disclaimer

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RESOURCES



Immediate Local Assistance

- [211 Services](#) – Local Housing, Food, Medical, and Transportation Support
- [Free & Low-Cost Clinics \(NAFCC\)](#) – Find nearby clinics



HIV-Specific Medical Care– Find a Provider

- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program [Provider Locator](#)
- [American Academy of HIV Medicine](#) (if displaced outside the U.S.)
- [Indian Health Services National HIV/AIDS Program](#)



Medication Assistance

- [AIDS Drug Assistance Programs \(ADAP\) Directory](#)
- [ASPR Emergency Prescription Assistance Program \(EPAP\)](#)



Housing Support

- [FEMA Individuals and Households Program](#)
- [Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS \(HOPWA\)](#)



Mental Health & Emotional Support

- [SAMHSA](#) Disaster Distress Helpline – Call/text 1-800-985-5990 (press 2 for Spanish)
- [LGBT National Help Center](#) – Online Peer Support Chat
- [National AIDS Hotline](#) (referral service)
 - English: 1-800-342-2437
 - Spanish: 1-800-344-7432



Transportation Assistance

- [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program](#) – Medical Transportation Services (availability varies)



Disaster Preparedness & Safety

- [CDC Emergency Preparedness & Response](#)
- [Ready.gov](#) – Emergency Planning Tools
- [State Homeland Security & Emergency Services](#)
- [FDA Emergency Preparedness](#) – Medications



Provider-Focused Disaster Guidance

- [HIV.gov Clinical Info](#) – Disaster Guidance
- [Getting Displaced With HIV](#) Fact Sheet
- [HIV.gov – Emergencies and Disasters and HIV](#)