



SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

HEALTH ADVISORY

Louisiana Requests Trained WIC Personnel To Help With Hurricane Katrina Response

The state of Louisiana has issued an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) notice requesting 24 trained WIC professionals (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) to assist at WIC clinics throughout the state.

The North Dakota Department of Health is compiling a list of WIC personnel interested in volunteering. WIC professionals who would like to be considered for a response team are asked to register through the state's Public Health Emergency Volunteer Reserve (PHEVR). Registration can be completed online at www.ndhan.gov using the "Hurricane Katrina" link. The Department of Health will submit volunteer information to EMAC on Wednesday, September 21. To be considered for this deployment, please register by noon.

The Department of Health will contact you with further instructions if WIC professionals from North Dakota will be activated and deployed. Volunteers in Louisiana will live in a tent city; bedding and meals will be provided. The deployment is expected to last two weeks.

Deployment of volunteers from North Dakota will be made through North Dakota Department of Emergency Services using the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Through EMAC, a disaster-impacted state can request and receive assistance from other member states. Responding through EMAC is necessary to ensure that volunteers are protected from unforeseen accidents, injuries and legal actions.

Anyone who has questions about this advisory can contact the North Dakota Department of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Section at 701.328.2270.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.