



SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

HEALTH UPDATE

North Dakota Department of Health Continues Coordination of Health and Medical Professionals Interested in Volunteering for Hurricane Response

The North Dakota Department of Health is continuing to coordinate a list of health and medical volunteers interested in potentially assisting with response to Hurricane Katrina and now approaching Hurricane Rita.

Public health or private medical 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.

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.

If a request for health and medical assistance is received, the Department of Health will contact registered volunteers who fit the requested roles; therefore, some people who volunteer may not be contacted to serve. Prior to deployment, the department will provide guidelines about necessary preparations and supplies the volunteers will need. People should not incur any expenses unless contacted and deployed by the state.

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, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.