



November 2, 2005

HEALTH ADVISORY

Louisiana continues to request additional medical personnel

The state of Louisiana has issued Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) notices requesting additional medical personnel. There is an acute shortage of such personnel in Louisiana due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Louisiana is requesting volunteers in the following areas:

- New Orleans – registered nurses with the following specialties: critical care, medical surgical, telemetry, and licensed practical nurses for medical surgical and telemetry assignment. In addition, there is a need for medical technicians, critical care technicians, CNAs and secretaries.

The personnel requested are needed for increased bed capacity in a Critical Care facility, and to increase the Medical/Surgical capacity from 30 beds to 50 beds. In spite of efforts to hire local staff, the facility has been unable to hire sufficient personnel to increase inpatient capacity.

Deployments can be broken down into either 15-day or 30-day deployments.

If you are available for deployment at this time, please respond to the following e-mail address: edtech@state.nd.us. If you have not previously registered on the state's Public Health Emergency Volunteer Reserve (PHEVR) database please complete the on-line form at www.ndhan.gov.

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, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.