



March 15, 2010

To: Minnesota Nursing Homes

**From: Minnesota Department of Health Compliance Monitoring Division and the
Office of Emergency Preparedness**

Re: BED AVAILABILITY IN THE EVENT OF EVACUATION DUE TO FLOOD

With the probability of flooding in various areas of Minnesota and in neighboring states we want to alert you that we may be contacting you regarding your ability to accept residents/patients from a facility that needs to be evacuated.

For those of you not familiar with Minnesota's emergency preparedness structure, Minnesota uses a tiered response system for handling emergencies/disasters. When a local community's capacity is exceeded, they can request assistance from the regional coordinators. Regional coordinators can ask the state to assist when needed.

MDH is making available a web-based survey tool to collect information from providers about available beds and resources if such a request for assistance is received. You will be asked to enter information on-line about current bed availability, including number and type, (gender, secured units, specialty); staffing needs; available transportation resources; a 24/7 contact number, etc. That data will be made available to the regional planners and local requesting agency or facility. The evacuating facility would review the information and contact facilities directly to make arrangements for their residents/patients.

To prepare for such an event we are asking that each facility do the following:

1. Ensure that appropriate personnel in your facility have subscribed to the MDH's Compliance Monitoring Division GovDelivery system, as we will use that mechanism to let you know that we need facilities to report their available beds or other resources. The request for resources may be time sensitive and it will be important to have a quick response from your facility. The link to subscribe is:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fpc/fpc.html> .

Click on *Subscribe to News/Announcements*
located on the right hand side of the page.

2. Bookmark the following web page on your computers.

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/oep/healthcare/ltc/index.html>

This will be where you will access the survey tool and enter the various information about beds and resources.

3. You may also want to contact your Regional Healthcare Preparedness Consultant (RHPC) to ensure that they have your accurate contact information. You can find your regional RHPC on our web site at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/oep/contact/teamsregions.html>

For those facilities who may be in an area where flooding is possible, and you have not yet developed a flood plan you should start working on that now. If you need assistance you can contact the RHPC in your region. See the link above for their contact information.

We hope that we will not have to relocate any of these often very vulnerable individuals but we need to be prepared. Thanks so much for your help on this in advance!

cc: RHPCs