



GRAYSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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In light of the recent flooding in areas of Grayson County, we are taking this opportunity to remind the public of the need for up to date Tetanus vaccination.

Tetanus (lockjaw) causes painful muscle tightening and stiffness, usually all over the body. In some cases it can prevent opening the mouth and swallowing. **Tetanus (Td)** vaccine can protect adolescents and adults from tetanus and diphtheria. **Td** is normally given as a booster dose **every 10 years** as a precaution; however, it is **recommended that it be given at 5 years since last booster** in the event of a severe and dirty wound or burn. **Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap)** vaccine is normally given between the ages of 11 and 12 years. It is recommended that **Tdap** be administered at least once as an adult.

In most settings, a disaster does not increase the risk for tetanus. However, the risk of tetanus among disaster survivors and emergency responders can best be minimized by following standard immunization recommendations and providing proper wound care.

One should consult a Primary Care Physician for advice relating to obtaining the Td/Tdap vaccine. Additional information is also available at www.cdc.gov.