



New York City Health Care Outreach to Impacted Communities

Outreach

- The City has provided food, water, clothing, and blankets through various relief centers. Activity through 11/15/12:
 - Estimated Meals Distributed: Over 2 million
 - Estimated Prepared Food Distributed: 170,000
 - Estimated Bottles of Water Distributed: More than 634,000 bottles
 - Estimated Blankets Distributed: 170,856
- Starting 11/9 the City has operated a systematic outreach program to high-rise buildings in the Rockaways and Coney Island to assess health needs and provide services. The teams conducting this work include hundreds of National Guard members, paramedics and health department staff. Federal Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) assisted by providing medical support. As of 11/14 this program:
 - Knocked on doors of more than 35,000 units
 - Spoke to people in 13,000 occupied units
 - Provided food, water, and where possible, prescriptions for people requesting them
 - Transported 36 people who needed medical care to clinics or hospital emergency departments
- Arrangements are being made for follow-up visits in buildings that do not have electricity or heat

Health Care Services

- 7-10 mobile health clinics have been established since the storm in impacted areas and are operating daily
 - These providers are each seeing 10-40 patients per day and are not turning away patients. The most common complaint is need for medication refills.
- The health department is contacting medical providers to assess the services available and coordinate across providers in the Rockaways. As of 11/15, in the Rockaways, the following providers are open for business
 - 54 community physicians (including community health center providers)
 - 1 hospital (St. John's Episcopal)
 - 18 pharmacies
- CVS, Duane Reade and Walgreens have agreed to provide medications without copay in affected areas for a limited time
- Vaccinations against influenza and tetanus are available through many of the mobile clinics.
- Mental health staff is onsite at restoration centers. The majority of clients were seen in Coney and Far Rockaway and were seeking care for general distress and anxiety.

Health Needs

The Health Department has been monitoring data from hospital emergency departments daily to assess health and mental health impacts of the storm. Thus far, the data indicate:

- The total number of visits went down on the day of storm and has since returned to normal levels
- There was a brief increase in cases of hypothermia immediately after the storm but no sustained increase since then
- There is a modest increase in visits for prescription medicine refills
- There has not been an increase in injuries or illnesses overall
- There was a modest increase in asthma exacerbations in the Rockaways that was not been seen in other impacted areas. Rates seem to have returned to baseline. This increase could have been caused by:
 - People living in cold temperatures
 - People using their stove to heat their homes
 - Dust from clean-up activities
 - Reduced access to prescription medications