

POST-DISASTER NURSING HOME REOPENING PROCEDURES

Step 1: Verification of Conditions

Facility Administration should coordinate with county emergency management to understand conditions of roadways leading to and from the facility.

Each facility should confirm open routes for resident transport and emergency services in the event of a facility fire or other secondary event.

Step 2: For all evacuated facilities

Within 24-hours post-disaster, if road conditions allow, appropriate facility staff should conduct a damage assessment of the facility.

Ensure that there is adequate food and water supplies for both residents and staff and monitor pharmaceutical and equipment needs for residents.

Step 3: If no damage is noted and full services offered

When the facility returns to full-service following a zero-damage assessment, notify Health Regulation at the DHEC Agency Coordination Center (ACC).

- Send confirmation of return-to-service to: ACC-HealthReg@dhec.sc.gov
- Call ACC-HealthReg Desk at 803-898-3685

Agency follow-up will occur as staff are able. **Continue to Step 5.**

No immediate response from DHEC is required for you to operate at Step 3

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Step 4: If facility is damaged or limited services offered

If any of the following apply to your facility post-disaster, **YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY CONTACT DHEC BEFORE PROCEEDING:**

- Post-disaster assessment reveals damage to the physical plant
- Evacuated facility must remain closed due to damage or other circumstances
- Facility will not return to immediate service or will return to limited service

CALL 803-898-3685 OR EMAIL ACC-HealthReg@dhec.sc.gov

Step 5: Repatriation of evacuated residents

Understand that repatriation may not occur as quickly as evacuation. If EMS resources are needed for resident transport, available EMS resources will focus immediately on new medical emergencies.

Prior to engaging in repatriation activities, each facility should:

- Contact their contracted transportation service to arrange resident transport.
- Contact receiving facilities, if applicable, to verify status of individual residents
- Prepare a list of facilities and residents for transmittal to State EMS and transport staff, if State EMS transport is requested.

Contact ACC-HealthReg to notify of approximate repatriation timeline and expected census.

- Send this information to: ACC-HealthReg@dhec.sc.gov
- Call ACC-HealthReg Desk at 803-898-3685

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

South Carolina Emergency Management Division.....803-737-8500