



Renfrew County and
District Health Unit

FACT SHEET

Staying Safe During a Flood



Stay out of Floodwater

Floodwaters contain many things that may harm you. Do not wade, walk or swim through flood waters. Floodwater may contain:

- Downed power lines. If you see a downed power line, stay back 10 metres or the length of a school bus and call 9-1-1 and your local electric utility to report it.
- Dangerous debris such as sharp objects, rocks, lumber or vehicles.
- Harmful chemicals (oil, gasoline), raw sewage or infectious diseases.

If your home or basement floods

- Do not enter your basement if water has risen above the level of baseboard heaters, electrical outlets, furnace, or is near your electrical panel.
- Contact your local electric utility immediately in the event flood water has risen above electrical sources. Arrange to disconnect power to your home.
- Do not turn on any appliance. Have your appliances checked by an electrician or HVAC specialist as appropriate.

Don't Drive in Flooded Areas

Swiftly moving shallow water can be deadly. One foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away. Stay off bridges over fast-moving water, and never drive around barricades.

Prevent Injuries

- Prompt first aid is important to help prevent infection.
- Check your immunization record to ensure your last tetanus vaccination is up-to-date.

Other Considerations

- Check your emergency kit in case you need to evacuate immediately. For more information about emergency kits visit <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>
- Fill your vehicle with gas.
- Review your family disaster plan.
- Consider evacuation of your animals or livestock to higher ground.
- Continue listening to local news and media sources.
- Listen to authorities and local responders and follow instructions given.
- If you must enter flood waters, ensure to wear appropriate protective equipment.

Visit us at www.rcdhu.com or call 613-735-8654
or 1-800-267-1097, Ext. 555

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"