



Iowa Department of Public Health

Tetanus

During times of flooding people are often reminded to receive a booster dose of tetanus-containing vaccine even though flooding is not shown to be a risk for tetanus. Tetanus infection (lockjaw) can occur with a wound which breaks the surface of the skin; in particular, puncture wounds or deep cuts can result in infection. There are two types of vaccine that are routinely used for a tetanus booster dose; tetanus diphtheria (Td) or tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.

In order to determine if you need to be vaccinated, it is important to know your vaccination history. Please answer the following questions:

- Do you have an injury (cut or scrape)?
- Have you been in the flood water?
- Have you had a tetanus shot within the last 5 years?
- Do you have any allergies?
- Have you had a problem with any vaccinations in the past?

Depending on your answer to the above questions, you may need to be vaccinated for tetanus. Consult with your local public health department or your healthcare provider.