

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DOH-ST. JOHNS COUNTY ENCOURAGES FLORIDIANS TO BE PREPARED
AHEAD OF TROPICAL STORM NICOLE'S LANDFALL**



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ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FL - In response to Tropical Storm Nicole, the Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County (DOH-St. Johns County) is working to support local and state response efforts to protect public health during severe weather conditions. Florida Department of Health has a variety of [other resources](#) in English, Spanish, and Creole to help you and your family in storm preparedness activities, such as [boil water notices](#), [carbon monoxide / generator safety](#), [electrical safety](#), [flood water safety](#), and more.

To ensure Floridians are prepared for Tropical Storm Nicole, communities are reminded of the following:

- Severe weather can impact your access to local utility services and potable water. Know when water is safe to consume your water by viewing [statewide boil water notices](#).
- Gather any [supplies](#) you may need to keep your loved ones safe healthy before and after the storm. Have enough [prescriptions on-hand](#) in case pharmacies experience closures.
- Listen to local authorities regarding [evacuations](#). Don't return home until local officials notify you it's safe to do so.
- [Never wade or drive through flooded areas and standing water](#). Turn around, don't drown.
- If you have any open wounds, regardless of exposure to floodwaters, clean all wounds with soap, disinfectant, or bottled water. If you sustain a wound or deep cut, seek medical attention as soon as possible. Ask your doctor if you need a tetanus booster.
- Prevent [carbon monoxide poisoning](#). Place your generator and any gasoline-powered engine outside at least 20 feet from any window, door, or vent.

During Hurricane Season, the time may arise when you may need to evacuate your home to go to a safe location. In certain situations, it may be safest for you to evacuate to a shelter. Additionally, if you or a loved one is in need of special care throughout the duration of the storm and its effects, please visit [FloridaDisaster.org](#) to find a shelter near you.

If you do evacuate to a shelter, [your kit](#) should include:

- List of medications and dosage.
- A [30-day supply of medications](#).
- Vital medical equipment for those who may be electrically or oxygen dependent.
- Backup energy sources for essential medical equipment.
- Any special dietary needs or food.
- Personal information including a photo ID, insurance card, emergency contacts, and your primary care provider's contact information.

DOH-St. Johns County encourages Floridians to cooperate with local and state officials and to remember that adequate preparedness is the best way to help mitigate negative effects of a storm. Residents and visitors of St. Johns County are encouraged to monitor information provided by St. Johns County Emergency Management via the following website: www.sjcf.us/hurricane. Residents and visitors can also call the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center's Citizen Information Hotline at: 904-824-5550.

About the Florida Department of Health - The Department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health, visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.