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Health Guidance for Schools

The School Health Services Program at the Vermont Department of Health offers the following resources to assist school and community personnel who are working to remediate flood damage sustained by schools due to Hurricane Irene.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that “children, and whenever possible teens, should not be involved in clean-up efforts but should return after the area is cleaned.” School communities who wish to assist their neighbors in need may wish to consider volunteer opportunities that do **not** involve clean-up.

For a brief summary of guidance regarding physical hazards, electrical issues, mold, fuel spills/leaks, sewage/septic leaks, water issues, food issues, and personal protective equipment for **adults** to wear when cleaning or removing building material, please see the following document posted at the Vermont Department of Health website:

(http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/water/documents/090111_irenerecoverysteps.pdf)

Recovery from Hurricane Irene: Steps to take before returning to homes and schools.

Note: Those involved in clean-up should take care to follow usual guidelines regarding hazardous building materials such as lead and asbestos (i.e., follow your school’s Asbestos Management Plan).

For more comprehensive information, see the following document also posted at the Health Department website:

(http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/water/documents/090111_floodcleanupguide.pdf)

Creating a Healthy Home: A Field Guide for Clean-Up of Flooded Homes

[Note: this document also applies to clean-up of flooded schools]

The home page of the **Vermont Department of Education website** has Hurricane Irene Resources and Information prominently displayed at the following link:

<http://education.vermont.gov/>

The Health Department offers the following technical assistance as schools prepare to re-open:

(1) If your **school food service kitchen** has been flooded or damaged, please contact the Health Department Food and Lodging Program at **802-863-7221** for a kitchen inspection.

(2) To request consultative assistance from the **Health Department’s Envision Program** in order to determine if any environmental health hazards persist following clean-up, contact the Environmental Health Program at 1-800-439-8550.