

## **Flood Waters & Tetanus**

### **What You Need to Know**

#### **What is tetanus?**

Also known as “lockjaw”, tetanus is a disease of the nerves caused by bacteria in a contaminated wound.

- The tetanus bacteria is commonly found in soil.
- It enters the body through any opening, from a slight scratch to a severe wound.
- It can cause painful spasms of all muscles, convulsions and even death.

#### **Who should get Td (tetanus/diphtheria) vaccine?**

- Persons lacking a complete primary series of tetanus and diphtheria vaccines.
- Persons who have not had a booster of Td in the last 10 years.
- Persons who have a more severe or dirty wound if more than 5 years have elapsed since their last Td booster.

**- Remember -**

Exposure to flood water alone is not a reason to receive a tetanus vaccine.

**To find out if you need a tetanus vaccine, contact your health care provider or your local health department. For more information call 1-888-WV Family.**