



FLOOD WATERS AND 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 are 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 a 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.

For more information, please call the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department at (304) 348-8080 or visit www.kchdvw.org.