



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

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PRESS RELEASE: HEALTH PRECAUTIONS DURING TROPICAL CYCLONE RAE

In light of the heavy rains and flooding associated with Tropical Cyclone Rae, the Ministry of Health and Medical Service is issuing an important health advisory that is aimed at protecting public health against direct harm from the impact of the adverse weather event and prevent the subsequent outbreak of waterborne diseases and other health risks associated with the current adverse weather event.

1. ****Safe Drinking Water****

Store drinking water in clean, covered containers, and boil untreated water to minimize contamination. This practice eliminates harmful microorganisms that can cause waterborne diseases such as cholera and dysentery.

2. ****Sufficient Water Supply****

Every household should store an adequate amount of water, not just for drinking but also for cooking, hand washing, and personal hygiene. Having a reliable supply can help reduce the chances of infections related to unsanitary conditions during flooding.

3. ****Avoid Flooded Areas****

Exercise caution and refrain from playing in or wading through flooded areas including flooded creeks and rivers. These waters may be contaminated with sewage, chemicals, broken tree branches and other hazardous materials that can cause significant injuries and infections.

4. ****Protective Gear****

If you must enter flooded zones, for instance, to check on property or assist others, please wear appropriate protective clothing. This includes waterproof gum boots, gloves, and possibly masks. These measures can help prevent injuries and reduce the risk of diseases such as Leptospirosis, which can be contracted through contact with contaminated water.

5. ****Secure Important Items****

Store all medications, important documents, and electronic devices in waterproof containers in secure, elevated sites that shield them from flood damage and moisture and ensure their accessibility when needed.

6. ****Dispose of Carcasses Safely****

If floodwaters bring in animal carcasses, do not attempt to handle or consume them. Instead, dispose of them safely by burying or burning them, as decomposing remains can harbour harmful pathogens that pose significant health risks.

7. ****Seek Medical Attention****

Should you require medical assistance, do not hesitate to visit the nearest health facility when it is safe to do so. Health services are fully operational and equipped to handle emergencies. Early presentation can make a critical difference in treatment outcomes.

These guidelines are designed to ensure better health outcomes during adverse weather conditions. Your cooperation and vigilance are essential in protecting yourself and your community.

For further information or assistance, please contact your local health authority or the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

****Stay Safe and Take Care.****

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