Parrish Healthcare Hurricane Guide

Together, we will weather the storm.
Stay prepared. Stay safe.

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Healing Families—Healing Communities®

Together, we weather every storm.

At Parrish Healthcare, our top priority is to provide a safe and healing environment for everyone all the time. Since 1958, we have stood as trusted symbol of safety, preparedness and care—especially during severe weather events like hurricanes and tropical storms. We take pride in being storm-ready. This guide is designed to answer frequently asked questions and outline what you can expect from us when a storm threatens our community.

Parrish Medical Center is constructed to withstand hurricanes and is equipped with emergency generators and critical supplies to remain fully operational for up to two weeks following a storm. Our teams are thoroughly trained and always ready to activate our emergency plans.

When Brevard County Emergency Management issues a Hurricane Watch, we initiate our emergency response protocols. If a Hurricane Warning is issued, we begin modifying operations to ensure safety during the storm's impact. This includes canceling elective procedures and surgeries as well as temporarily closing select outpatient facilities until it is safe to resume care.

During the storm, our Emergency Department and inpatient hospital services remain fully operational throughout the storm. The hospital's Incident Command System is activated and we stay in close coordination with the Brevard County Emergency Operations Center to support the broader countywide emergency response. We also provide regular status updates throughout the storm to our patients, Care Partners and the community.

As storm conditions worsen and wind speeds reach a sustained 35-45 mph, it becomes too dangerous for our community first responders to remain on the roads. Emergency services may temporarily pause their response to 911 call until conditions improve. Additionally, when winds exceed 45 mph, our hospital protocols require us to secure all exterior doors. This is referred to as a "lock down." When a lock down becomes necessary, no one will be allowed to enter or exit the building. This is necessary to ensure the structural integrity of the building and the safety of everyone inside. When the storm passes and county officials issue an "all clear," we will resume normal hospital operations. Our facilities team will inspect all outpatient locations to ensure safety before reopening.

Our community can rest assured that before, during and after any storm, the safety of our patients and Care Partners remains our unwavering focus. **Together, we weather every storm.**

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Hurricane Terms

Hurricane season runs from June 1 until November 30. A **hurricane watch** means a hurricane is possible in your area. Be prepared to evacuate. Monitor local radio and television news outlets or listen to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest developments. A **hurricane warning** is when a hurricane is expected in your area. If local authorities advise you to evacuate, leave immediately.

Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure and damage potential. Category 3 and higher hurricanes are considered major hurricanes, though Categories 1 and Category 2 hurricanes are still extremely dangerous and warrant your full attention.

- **Tropical Storm:** Winds 39–73 mph
- **Category 1 Hurricane:** Winds 74–95 mph (64–82 kt)
    - Expect no real damage to buildings. Damage may occur to unanchored mobile homes or poorly constructed signs. Also, some coastal flooding and minor pier damage may occur.
- **Category 2 Hurricane:** Winds 96-110 mph (83-95 kt)
    - Expect some damage to building roofs, doors and windows. Considerable damage may occur to mobile homes.
- **Category 3 Hurricane:** Winds 111-130 mph (96-113 kt)
    - Expect some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings, large trees to be blown down and severe damage to mobile homes and poorly built signs. Flooding near the coast may destroy smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain may be flooded inland.

Hurricane Terms

- **Category 4 Hurricane:** Winds 131-155 mph (114-135 kt)
  - Expect more extensive curtainwall failures with complete roof structure failure on small residences, major erosion of beach areas and flooded terrain inland.
- **Category 5 Hurricane:** Winds 156 mph and up (135+ kt)
  - Expect complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings, complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Flooding may cause major damage to lower floors of all structures near the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be required.

Hurricanes can produce widespread torrential rains. Floods are the deadly and destructive result. Slow moving storms and tropical storms moving into mountainous regions tend to produce especially heavy rain. Excessive rain can trigger landslides or mud slides, especially in mountainous regions. Flash flooding can occur due to intense rainfall. Flooding on rivers and streams may persist for several days or more after the storm.

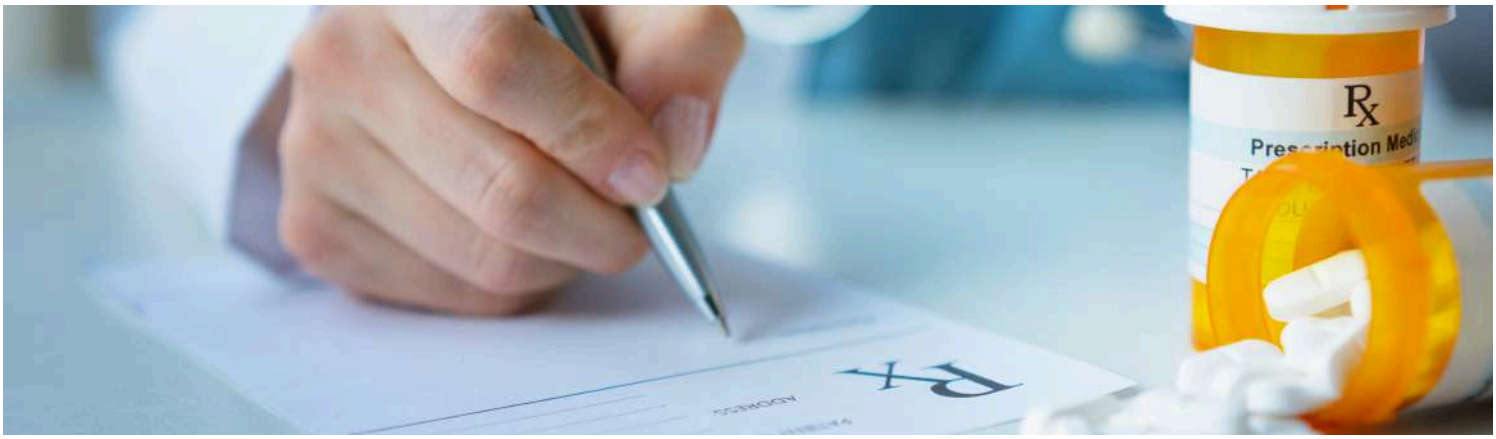
State and National Resources

It's never too early to start planning and preparing! Hurricane preparedness involves preparing for the potential impacts of a hurricane, including high winds, heavy rain, flooding and storm surge.

We encourage all residents to rely on our partners at Brevard County Office of Emergency Management for valuable information to help prepare your home and family before a hurricane strikes. Their website features many helpful resources and downloads to assist. Please visit www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement to learn more.

Additional state and national resources on how to plan and prepare for a hurricane can be found online at the following resources:

- **American Red Cross:** redcross.org
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency:** ready.gov/hurricanes
- **Florida Division of Emergency Management**: floridadisaster.org
- **NOAA Watch**: nhc.noaa.gov
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:** epa.gov/hurricanes/
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control:** emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/

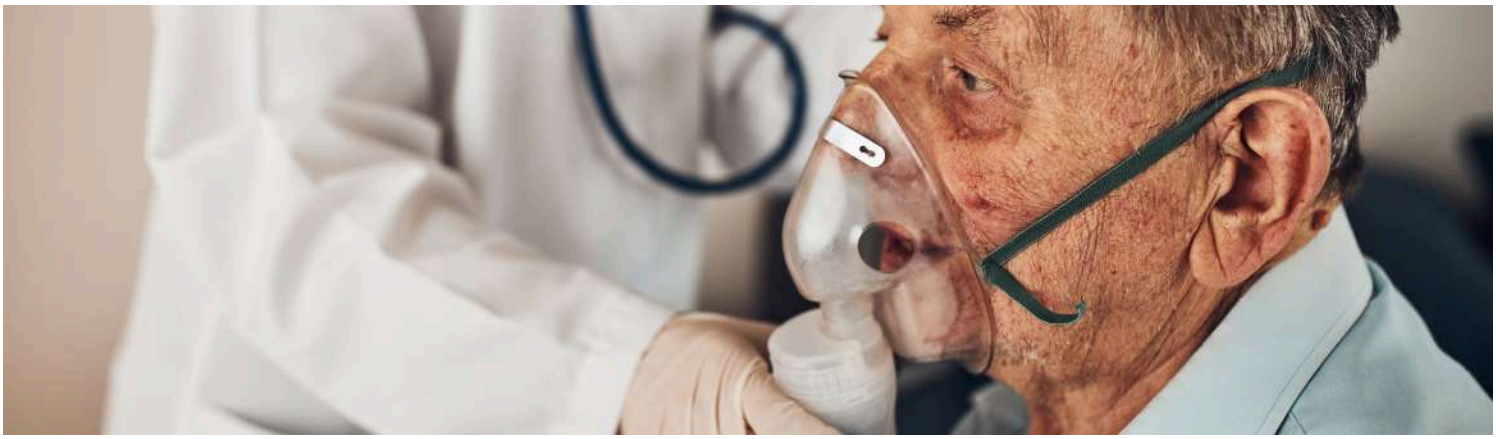


Medical Reminders

Get a 30-Day Supply of Necessary Medications
Florida Law allows for early prescription refills in the event the Governor issues an executive order declaring a state of emergency. Executive orders can be issued 5-7 days prior to a hurricane making landfall. If you are taking prescription medications, we encourage you to have a 30-day supply on hand. It is important to make your medication plan now. This plan should include speaking with a health insurance representative, pharmacist or your physician about options to acquire extra medications, one of which may include paying cash for your 30-day supply.

Call Your Dialysis Center for a Temporary Plan of Care
If you are on dialysis, please call your dialysis center to create a plan of action for your care. Do not miss a treatment prior to bad weather and make sure to follow your doctor-ordered diet very closely. Read the patient care information provided to you by your doctor. It includes medical information to assist you and phone numbers to the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network. Only your doctor can recommend if it is medically safe for you to miss treatments and can advise whether you should be admitted to a hospital during a hurricane. Please note: Special Needs Shelters do not offer dialysis, and some centers may be closed during a hurricane. When the storm passes, contact your dialysis center for further instructions or go to your hospital for short-term care if your center is closed.

Confirm Appointments/Procedures Prior to Arrival
Remain proactive regarding appointments and/or procedures you might have scheduled that may be interrupted given a hurricane.



Medical Reminders

A Hospital Is Not a County Shelter
A shelter is a place to go in the event of an evacuation. There are three types of evacuation shelters: Primary Evacuation Shelters, Special Needs Shelters and Pet-Friendly Shelters. Shelters are designated throughout the county. Please note our hospital, Parrish Medical Center, is not a designated shelter and does not take evacuees.

For more information regarding Brevard county shelters, please visit: https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/BePrepared/Step3HaveAPlan/Shelters

If Oxygen Dependent, Make Shelter Arrangements
Individuals who are oxygen dependent may be eligible for a Special Needs Shelter, eligibility is based on medical needs and availability. If you are oxygen-dependent, be sure to fill your oxygen tanks. At a minimum, we encourage you to have two days' worth of oxygen on hand. If you do not plan to evacuate, contact the Brevard County Office of Emergency Management at 321-637-6670 for more information on how to register for a Special Needs Shelter. Making prior arrangements for a Special Needs Shelter is essential.

Weather Alerts and Communication

We encourage all Brevard County residents to sign up for text alerts through "AlertBrevard" for the most updated storm information. To sign up, please visit the following website: brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/AlertSignup

Occasionally during hurricanes, cell towers may go down. The NOAA Weather Radio is the National Weather Service's direct link to the public. The primary frequency for Weather Altery Radios in Brevard County is 162.5550MHz. You can also sign up for email or text alerts via weather.gov.

Parrish Healthcare Communications

As long as connectivity allows, Parrish Healthcare will communicate updates to the public regarding our hospital operations and Emergency Department via our website, social media channels and through our media partners.

In Gratitude

We are grateful for our Parrish Healthcare family, all Brevard County first-responders and all who work tirelessly to keep our beloved community safe during hurricane season. We are also grateful for the strength and resilience of our community and how we come together to support one another during times of crisis.

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