

Home Healthcare Provider Fact Sheet

On this webpage you will find procedures for registering your home healthcare clients for the **Pinellas County Evacuation Assistance Program** and the **Special Needs Shelter Program**.

1. Registration of Special Needs and Transportation Assistance Clients

Our new form can be found at <http://www.pinellascounty.org/forms/special-needs.htm>. You will find frequently asked questions that explain the programs. In addition, there are links to two forms at the top: one can be filled in online and e-mailed to us. The other can be downloaded, filled in and mailed or faxed to us. Please do not use any other forms. Be sure to include your company contact information so we can call you if we have any questions.

To assist you in determining if your clients are suitable for the Special Needs shelters there is Department of Health information at http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/PDF/HH_Criteria.pdf. If you have any questions about the healthcare portion, client suitability or the Special Needs Shelters please call the Department of Health at (727) 820-4155.

Clients who need transportation must be registered. Clients who have their own transportation to a Special Needs shelter are encouraged to register, but it is not required.

Forms that are sent in at the last minute may or may not be entered into the system.

2. Client Disaster Plans

When you assist a client with a disaster plan, please consider the following:

- Is he or she in an evacuation zone? Mobile/manufactured homes are always the same as category A.
- Is there a medical reason they need to evacuate?
- Do they have family or friends they can stay with?
- Is a hotel or motel better for them than a shelter?
- Is a Special Needs shelter the right place for them? Do not send clients to Special Needs shelters who do not belong there.
- Should the client be placed in a nursing home/hospital? If the answer is yes, the county will not make the arrangements.
- Do they have pets and have they made arrangements for their pets? There is a special program for pets of people with special needs. (See form for how to register.)
- Clients in licensed healthcare facilities are **NOT** eligible for public shelters
- This is a voluntary program. Do not sign up clients who do not want to be transported or who do not want to go to a shelter.

3. Special Needs Shelters

The following shelters will be staffed by the Department of Health:

Dunedin Highlands Middle School – 70 Patricia Ave., Dunedin

Oak Grove Middle School – 1370 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater

John Hopkins Middle School – 701 16th St. S., St. Petersburg

Not all of the shelters may be open in an evacuation. Check the local news or our website to see which shelters are open.

4. What to Expect at the Shelters

We have a limited number of cots and beds available for the shelters. Clients should bring their own comfort items such as pillows, blankets, bedding and air mattresses. Although the shelter may lose electricity, gaseous oxygen will be available. Clients may bring concentrators if they can manage them. Generators are not available for anything other than lights and fans; air conditioning and electricity for individuals may not be available if the shelter loses power. Clients are encouraged to bring family members or a caretaker with them to the shelter; family members may accompany special needs persons to shelters. Food will be provided, however, clients on special diets need to

bring their own food. All medications and other necessary medical supplies should be brought by clients. Clients are encouraged to bring games, snacks, etc.

5. After the Storm – Recovery

- You are responsible for visiting your clients in shelters after the storm.
- You can help to determine if the client can return home by checking their residence.
- Fuel support for healthcare workers will be done on a case-by-case basis.

If you have questions, call David MacNamee, Pinellas County Emergency Management, at (727) 464-3811 or the Department of Health at (727) 820-4155.