



**CONTACT:**  
Randy Gehl  
563-589-4151  
563-599-2448  
[rgehl@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:rgehl@cityofdubuque.org)  
[www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org)

# NEWS RELEASE

*July 28, 2011 – For Immediate Release*

## **Flood Clean-Up Tips**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Flood clean-up involves many areas including flooded basements, dealing with flooded personal items, and cleaning and disinfecting after a flood.

To clean items that are solid (will not absorb water), use a mild household detergent solution followed by a mild bleach and water solution (1/4 cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water) and allow to air dry. Porous items (items that will absorb water) such as clothing and bedding should be pre-soaked in cold water before washing in a washing machine to remove mud and filth. Use hot water and detergent when washing items and be careful not to overload the washing machine after the mud and filth has been removed. Add one cup of liquid chlorine bleach to the wash water before adding clothes or other items. Large items that are porous, such as patio upholstered furniture, mattresses, carpeting, etc. that have been soaked by flood waters, must be discarded. If such items have not been soaked, but can be dried out in 24 hours, they may possibly be saved.

Tetanus shots are not always necessary during times of flooding. The need for tetanus vaccination during flood recovery depends upon individual circumstances, many of which apply at any other time besides during flooding. "There is generally no need for mass tetanus immunization programs during flooding, and it is not a standard recommendation," said Mary Rose Corrigan, RN, Public Health Specialist for the City of Dubuque. Individuals are generally advised to receive a routine tetanus booster dose every ten years. People who are cut or injured or have not received or are unsure if they have received a tetanus vaccine within the last five years, should receive a booster dose of vaccine.

###