

## TETANUS VACCINE

Due to the recent flooding in Green Lake County, the Health Unit would like to remind everyone about the dangers of Tetanus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), outbreaks of infectious diseases after a flood in the U.S. are unusual and mass immunization programs are not routinely recommended.

### **Tetanus Vaccine:**

The need for tetanus vaccination after exposure to flood water depends on the presence of a wound, the condition of the wound and the likelihood that the injured person is susceptible to tetanus.

- Persons with severe wounds should be evaluated by a medical provider.
- Persons who sustain clean, minor wounds should receive tetanus-containing vaccine if they have not completed a primary tetanus series or if more than 10 years have elapsed since their last tetanus booster.
- All persons should receive a tetanus booster every 10 years.

Tetanus and diphtheria are serious diseases. Tetanus is caused by a germ that enters the body through a cut or wound. Tetanus causes serious, painful spasms of all muscle and can lead to "locking" of the jaw so a patient cannot open his or her mouth or swallow.

The best way to protect yourself against tetanus is vaccination. People who have not received at least 3 doses of any tetanus/diphtheria vaccine (DTP, DtaP or DT) during their lifetime should do so using Tetanus.

- **If you have not received a Tetanus vaccine in the last 5 years and are under the age of 65 a Tetanus vaccine is recommended.**
- **If you have not received a Tetanus vaccine in the last 10 years and are over the age of 65 a Tetanus vaccine is recommended.**

You can receive more information regarding Tetanus by calling the Green Lake County Health Unit at (920)294-4070. You can receive a free Tetanus vaccine at the Green Lake County Health Unit. Call: (920)294-4070.