

Protecting yourself from diseases during disaster clean-up



Coming into contact with contaminated floodwater and mud can increase your risk of wound infections, diarrhoea, conjunctivitis, ear, nose and throat infections and other serious diseases like leptospirosis and melioidosis.

Bacteria can enter the body through any skin break when in contact with floodwater, or by breathing in muddy droplets.



It is important to protect yourself against the risk of infection during clean up by:

- washing your hands with soap and water or a hand sanitiser after having contact with damaged material, floodwater or mud
- wearing enclosed and water-resistant footwear and protective gloves when cleaning up after flooding or handling soil, mud or surface water
- covering any cuts, abrasions and sores with water-resistant dressing
- wearing a mask when pressure hosing to prevent inhalation of mud and water.

If you or anyone you know develops a fever following contact with floodwaters, or has a wound that becomes dirty, red or sore, consult a doctor as soon as possible.

If you do see a doctor, please make sure you tell them you have been exposed to floodwater.

Call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) at any time.

Contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68) for your nearest Public Health Unit.



**Queensland
Government**