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Valley Health Provides Greater Access to Vaccines to WV Flood Zones

HUNTINGTON, W.VA. – Earlier today Valley Health delivered 1000 tetanus and Tdap vaccines to the National Guard who will transport them to primary care clinics in WV flood zones.

Valley Health received a request on Sunday from the WV Primary Care Association to help those affected by flooding gain greater access to the tetanus vaccine.

“People involved in flood cleanup are at an increased risk of being exposed to tetanus, a serious bacterial infection that can be life-threatening if it remains untreated,” Dr. Mathew Weimer of Valley Health – Milton explained. “The vaccine can help prevent this disease.”

The bacterium that causes tetanus is usually found in soil, dust and manure and enters the body through breaks in the skin, typically cuts or puncture wounds.

Because immunity to tetanus decreases over time, adults need to get a booster shot every ten years to stay protected. People who are unsure whether they are up to date on their vaccine shots should talk to their provider.

Valley Health is currently collecting donations of hygiene products and cleaning supplies for flood victims at all of its locations until Thursday, June 30.

For a complete list of Valley Health’s services and locations, visit www.valleyhealth.org or call (304) 525-3334.

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Valley Health Systems, Inc. is a network of almost thirty non-profit health centers that has been a Tri-State leader in the delivery of primary healthcare since 1975. Operating in southern West Virginia and southeastern Ohio, Valley Health provides services to nearly 60,000 patients each year.