

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

No. 101.4

FLOODS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Floodwaters contaminated with sewage may carry a range of viruses and parasites. However, the experience from past floods is that the greatest risk of infection is bacterial infection of cuts and abrasions.

The most effective way of preventing infection is:

- Thorough hand washing after contact with flood contaminated materials
- Wearing gloves
- Avoiding contact between cuts or abrasions with floodwater or contaminated materials.

No antibiotics or vaccinations are recommended for prevention of specific flood related viral, bacterial or parasitic diseases.

People should contact their GP if they are concerned about their health.