

F. 1-70/Floods/CDC/2022  
**Center for Disease Control (CDC)**  
**National Institute of Health, Islamabad**  
**Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination**  
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**National Focal Point for International Health Regulations**

7<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**Subject: Floods Health Advisory**

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Reference Pakistan Meteorological Department, Seasonal Forecast for Monsoon rainfall and floods in different parts of the country during July-September 2022, the subject advisory is being circulated for preparedness and taking timely preventive measures to minimize the occurrence of disease outbreaks and to prevent health hazards during floods.

2. It is, therefore, urged that the concerned authorities should take necessary preventive measures to avert environmental degradation, water & food contamination and sanitation limitations that could work synergistically to increase the incidence of preventable communicable/ infectious diseases resulting in increased economic burden, poor quality of life and loss of life. The anticipated food & water, vector borne and zoonotic disease outbreaks could only be contained through advance preparedness and preventive measures so as to minimize the morbidity and mortality.

3. The National Institute of Health accordingly recommends the following actions in coordination with the relevant stakeholders:

- i. Strengthen the surveillance and response arrangements for high alert diseases including Acute Gastroenteritis, Cholera, Hepatitis A&E, Typhoid, Dengue Fever, Malaria, Measles etc. Moreover, other health issues like snake bites and injuries may also result in increased morbidity and mortality.
- ii. Daily data generated by the health facilities may be reviewed critically at camp / district level for early detection of clustering. On identification of clusters, field investigation be initiated immediately to assess the associated risk factors.
- iii. Task Forces for prevention & control of Infectious Diseases under the chairmanship of relevant DCOs; having on board all relevant stakeholders including health cluster partners, public health engineering department and the municipal authorities, may monitor disease situation and response in the flood affected districts on weekly basis.
- iv. District Rapid Response Teams comprising of public health/FELTP and laboratory professionals, vector control experts be constituted and fully equipped with requisite supplies such as medicines, ORS, IV fluids and other required logistics.
- v. Besides operationalizing Diarrhoea Treatment Centres (DTCs), the Acute Watery Diarrhoea situation be monitored by respective district health departments on daily basis and response initiated immediately without waiting for lab confirmation of Cholera. Measures for

prevention and control of AWD as well as National guidelines be strictly implemented with vigilant monitoring.

- vi. Appropriate vector control measures may please be instituted in timely manner.
4. It would be pertinent to engage the public health professionals trained through the Field Epidemiology & Laboratory Training Programme (FELTP), Pakistan, which shall prove to be a critical workforce in the emerging scenario to further fortify the surveillance and response activities being carried out the flood affected areas.
5. To further facilitate stakeholders in their efforts, the technical documents such as Case Definitions, Guidelines for Sample Collection and Transportation, Vector Control etc. have also been made available at NIH website [www.nih.org.pk](http://www.nih.org.pk). Detailed guidelines regarding health hazards and preventive measures are annexed. Further guidance in this context may be obtained at Tel: 051-9255237, Fax: 051-9255575 and e-mail: [eic.nih@gmail.com](mailto:eic.nih@gmail.com).



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