



**Joint Statement on Hurricane Harvey**  
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The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) offers our sympathy and support to those communities in Texas, Louisiana, and the Gulf Coast who have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. As we witness the devastating flooding, NACCHO applauds the unified efforts to save lives and protect the health of residents. We also recognize that this emergency is far from over.

As the rain associated with Hurricane Harvey continues to fall, the resulting flooding will further impact communities along the Gulf Coast, as well as those in surrounding areas that provide shelter and resources to evacuees. In these moments, we are reminded of the importance of upholding the national commitment to public health preparedness and working together to achieve resiliency.

Emergencies can strike any community at any time, but through preparedness planning and response, local health departments play a critical role in developing and implementing life-sustaining activities. From the development of operational plans to the maintenance of critical infrastructure services, local health departments are prepared to protect community health and national security in the face of hurricanes, pandemics, and other catastrophic events.

As the organization representing the nation's nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments, NACCHO stands ready to support these communities in response and the long recovery ahead by bolstering the capabilities of local health departments to respond to such events. For more information about how communities affected by flooding can respond, [view this list of resources](#) for local health departments.

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