

Supplemental Q&A

Q: What do you recommend others do to be prepared in the future to prevent infection issues in shelters?

A:

Florida: Have posters/flyers/handouts prepared ahead of time to bring to the shelter; regularly communicate with shelter staff during the response. In addition, it is challenging to prepare for the unexpected, but having a stock of alcohol-based hand rub and disinfectant products to provide to the shelters during the response would also be something to keep in mind.

Harris County: Have pre-designed survey tools (paper and online) is very important; screening evacuees for infectious disease symptoms as they *check-in* is critical; also, pre emergency staff training, establishment of communications/contacts with partners prior to an emergency, preparation of flyers/signage, vaccines and essential medical supplies, and hand sanitizers.

Q: What were your policy for storage of personal items shelter residents may have brought with them to the shelter?

A:

Florida: No policy.

Harris County: Not aware of the policy. However, the shelter intake was managed by a NPO. They may have their policy. During our surveillance, belongings of residents that were identified with scabies were sealed and disinfected.

Q: What role did red cross and med reserve core play in ID control and surveillance?

A:

Florida: Red cross had other duties they had to fulfill on a day to day basis. They assisted as much as they could in detection of fevers, but individuals residing in the shelters had to go to them in the med room/clinic to receive medical attention. One key component to keep in mind, the red cross and med reserve have varying shifts and do change daily.

Harris County: Similar findings as FL. In addition, we requested/received shelter information (census, illness, injuries, urgent medical needs etc.) from RC shelters (outside the mega NRG shelter), and RC staff were very helpful on providing the information.

Q: Did you utilize MRC volunteers?

A:

Florida: Not to our knowledge.

Harris County: Not at the shelter.

Q: Were there any HIPAA concerns with performing the cot-to-cot or using the survey technology?

A:

Florida: No, the cot-to-cot survey did not collect any identifiable information.

Harris County: Same, our cot-to-cot survey did not collect any identifiable information. The online survey used was HIPAA compliant though.