

# Disaster Preparedness During The COVID-19 Pandemic



This natural disaster season is unlike any we have faced before, as the challenges of evacuating from a natural disaster and post-storm cleanup are coupled with the challenges of protecting oneself from SARS-Cov-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. As a result, normal preparedness procedures look a little different, making it even more important to take small steps from the start to protect yourself and your family should a natural disaster strike.

1

## Preparedness kits

Assemble two kits of emergency supplies and a one-month supply of prescription medication. After following stay-at-home orders, you may have some of these items at home already.



**Stay-at-home kit**  
(2 weeks of emergency supplies)

Food, water, household cleaning and disinfectant supplies, soap, paper products and personal hygiene items.<sup>1</sup>



**Evacuation kit**  
(3 days of supplies)

Food, water, personal hygiene items, masks and cleaning and disinfecting supplies.<sup>1</sup>



**Stop by an ATM**



**Create a plan**

Have a plan to reconnect with loved ones if communications networks are down.<sup>2</sup>



**Stay alert**

Stay current on local and state COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.



**Don't be alone**

If you are a single individual, plan to evacuate or shelter in place with a set "social circle" consisting of immediate family, roommates or anyone else you regularly interact with.<sup>3</sup>



**Prepare your vehicle**

Prepare the vehicle you will be using to evacuate. Ensure it's stocked with any items you need and that you've fueled up for the road.<sup>3</sup>

2

## Have a plan

Talking through a plan to stay safe ahead of a storm can save lives.

3

## How to shelter

If you need to go to a disaster shelter, follow best practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>6</sup>



**Practice social distancing**



**Wear a mask or cloth face covering**



**Disinfect frequently**

Disinfect frequently touched items and shared spaces within the shelter before using.



**Wash hands**

Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol throughout the day.

## Post-evacuation cleanup

When returning home, you may first want to check on your neighbors. Remember to follow social distancing recommendations and wear a mask. You may also find flooding damage in the house or access to fresh water is cut off. A disinfecting bleach solution can be essential during post-storm cleanup to remove excess mold caused by flooding, sanitize bleach-safe clothes and shoes damaged in the storm and even make water potable when boiling is not an option. For more information on how to keep your family safe before and after a natural disaster, visit [Clorox.com/disaster-preparedness](https://www.clorox.com/disaster-preparedness).

1. <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/survival-kit-supplies.html>  
2. <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/coronavirus-safety/preparing-for-disaster-during-covid-19.html>  
3. Monica Sanders, Disaster Response Expert  
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/covid-19/public-disaster-shelter-during-covid.html>  
6. <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/covid-19/public-disaster-shelter-during-covid.html>



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