



LAC DPH Health Advisory
Wildfire Response and Resources
January 13, 2025



*This message is intended for all Los Angeles County healthcare providers.
Please distribute as appropriate.*

Key Messages

- Multiple LA County agencies and the California National Guard continue to respond to the wildfires. Two local Assistance & Disaster Resource Centers will open to the public tomorrow.
- Fire safety and health resources, including information on the local Assistance & Disaster Resource Centers, are available on the Public Health website: publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Wildfire. A comprehensive list of information related to active wildfires and services provided by the County of Los Angeles is available at www.lacounty.gov/emergency.
- Healthcare providers are encouraged to review and share the following wildfire response resources.

Situation

Multiple Los Angeles County departments, including Sheriff, Fire, Office of Emergency Management, Public Works, and Public Health, continue to work together to provide comprehensive services in response to the fires in LA County. The California National Guard is deployed to support emergency response missions, including ingress and curfew enforcement for the impacted communities. Many people are still displaced from their homes or places of work. Water quality issues remain for many residencies and businesses in areas impacted by the Palisades and Eaton Fires.

Two local Assistance & Disaster Resource Centers will open to the public tomorrow. Visit the Public Health [Fire Safety and Health Information](https://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Wildfire) website for details about these centers. The website also provides resources such as area-specific boil water/do not drink notices, information on the temporary leaf-blower ban to help protect air quality, precautions when assessing property, and tips related to how to return home after a fire.

We recognize that many of you have also been directly impacted, losing homes, practices, or access to your workplaces. We acknowledge and deeply appreciate your efforts in supporting our community during this tough time.

Please review the important wildfire-related actions below.

Actions Requested of Providers

- **Assess Respiratory and Cardiovascular Health.**

- Screen patients for smoke and poor air quality exposure symptoms (e.g., dyspnea, cough, wheezing, chest pain, headaches, eye and mucous membrane irritation).
- Prioritize care for individuals with asthma, COPD, or cardiovascular conditions exacerbated by smoke (e.g., ischemic heart disease, congestive heart failure). Children, older adults, or those who are pregnant are also especially at risk for severe outcomes.
- Recommend N95 masks for at-risk patients and those exposed to smoke and ash.

See CDC HAN [Wildfire Smoke Exposure Poses Threat to At-Risk Populations](#) for more detailed recommendations for healthcare providers.

- **Address Mental Health Needs**

- Be vigilant for evidence of anxiety, depression, acute or post-traumatic stress disorder, and for substance abuse among patients or colleagues. Pre-existing psychiatric conditions may be aggravated by a natural disaster or emergency.
- Patients and colleagues experiencing mental health distress related to the wildfires should be encouraged to ask for help. 24/7 support and resources are available through the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Help Line at (800) 854-7771 and through the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#).
- Encourage self-care and peer support among healthcare staff.

See DMH [Wildfire Disaster Mental Health Resources](#).

- **Ensure Continuity of Care**

- Assist evacuees and displaced patients in accessing chronic medications by providing refills, medical equipment, and health records as they may not be able to access their usual provider.
- If a patient needs medication assisted treatment, such as suboxone and you are unable to provide this, please refer them to the MAT Consultation Line (213-288-9090) which operates 7 days per week from 8am - midnight.
- Facilitate prescription refills and provide temporary medication supplies.

- **Prevent Infectious Diseases**

- Promote flu and COVID-19 vaccinations, especially for those in shelters or crowded conditions. The [DPH vaccination webpage](#) has information on where uninsured/underinsured adults and children can access vaccines.

- Provide education on hygiene practices to prevent [respiratory](#) and [gastrointestinal](#) infections.
- **Promote Safety During Cleanup**
 - Advise patients on safe cleanup and handling of ash and debris to avoid skin irritation and respiratory issues. Share the fact sheets [How to Clean up Smoke and Soot from a Fire](#) (available in multiple languages) and [Returning Home After a Fire](#) (additional languages pending) on the Public Health [Fire Safety and Health Information](#) website.
 - Share water safety precautions if contamination is suspected. See the relevant [Boil Water/Do Not Drink Notices](#).
- **Provide Disaster Resources**
 - [Local Assistance & Disaster Resource Centers](#)
 - California 2025 LA Fires - Includes how to register for FEMA assistance, and insurance information: ca.gov/LAfires.
 - Alert LA County Emergency Notifications- Register for emergency notifications: ready.lacounty.gov/emergency-notifications.

Additional Resources

- **Relief for Practices:** LA County Medical Association (LACMA) has created a [2025 Fire Practice Recovery toolkit](#) (open to all, including non-members).
- **CDC Wildfires:** www.cdc.gov/wildfires

This communication was sent by Dr. Muntu Davis, Health Officer, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

To view this and other communications or to sign-up to receive LAHANs, please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/lahan>.