



AIM PLUS
MEDICAL SUPPLIES

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Be Prepared for an Emergency

Do you qualify to use a Florida Special Needs Shelter during an emergency?

Qualifications: A person shall be eligible for access to a special needs shelter if: (a) They are a person with special needs; (b) Their care needs exceed basic first aid provided at General Population Shelters and c) Their impairments or disabilities: 1. Are medically stable; and 2. Do not exceed the capacity, staffing, and equipment of the special needs shelter to minimize deterioration of their pre-vent level of health. Special needs shelters may choose to accept persons with care needs that exceed the criteria stated in subsection (1). Determination as to the capacity (either in skills or assets) of the special needs shelter is made by the local emergency management agency and the county health department or their designees.

If you qualify, register here prior to the emergency:

<https://snr.flhealthresponse.com/>.

Need assistance registering for the shelter? Call AIM Plus Medical Supplies at 866-919-1246 and we can help walk you through the process. **If you do register, please inform us that you did so.** We will need to coordinate receipt of your supplies with your Special Needs Shelter so we need to have this information in advance of the emergency.

More information about Special Needs Shelters may be found here:

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/disaster-response-resources/spns-index.html>

If you don't qualify for a Special Needs Shelter, you can still find a local shelter. Go to the following link to find a shelter near you:

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/shelters/>.

Need further assistance? The Regional Coordinator Manager near you may be found here: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/counties/>

A checklist of items you will need to take with you in the event of an emergency may be found at: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/globalassets/plan--prepare/disaster-supply-checklist.pdf> Please print this and place it with the items you will take will you during an emergency like medications and other critical supplies. **You may request an equipment and supply list at any time from AIM Plus Medical Supplies and should request a new one any time your equipment changes. For example, if you switch to a different CGM. Take this equipment and supply list with you during an emergency.**

Check the following website for up-to-date information on Florida emergencies:

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/> This website also has valuable information such as brochures to help you prepare for an emergency.

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS

Please note: The special needs shelter should be used as a place of last refuge. The evacuee may not receive the same level of care received in the home and the conditions in a shelter may be stressful.

(1) It is the expectation of the special needs shelter that a caregiver¹ accompany and remain with the consumer throughout the stay.

(2) The following is a suggested list of what consumers need to bring to the special needs shelter during an evacuation; the consumer should check with the assigned shelter to confirm the necessary items and/or those items which may not be accommodated:

- Identification and current address
- A copy of the consumer's plan of care, if applicable
- Medication listing including directions for the dose, frequency, route, time of day and any special considerations for administration; equipment and supplies list including the phone, beeper and emergency numbers for the consumer's physician, pharmacy and, if applicable, oxygen supplier; necessary medical equipment and supplies; Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNRO), if applicable
- Bed sheets, blankets, pillow, folding lawn chair, air mattress
- Prescription and non-prescription medications needed for at least 5 to 7 days; oxygen for 5 to 7 days, if needed and shelter space allows
- Special diet items, non-perishable food for 5 to 7 days and 1 gallon of water per person per day
- Glasses, hearing aids and batteries, prosthetics and any other assistive devices
- Personal hygiene items for 5 to 7 days (including adult diapers, colostomy supplies, etc.)
- Extra clothing for 5 to 7 days
- Flashlight and batteries
- Self-entertainment and recreation items such as books, magazines, quiet games
- Labeled shoe box or other small closed container to hold the majority of the smaller items listed above to facilitate storage and ease of use

(3) All persons using the special needs shelters need to know the following:

- Space allotted for the consumer includes space for the caregiver. A special needs shelter can accommodate only one caregiver at a time; any other family members, friends, etc. should go to a regular shelter.
- The caregiver must provide his or her own bedding.
- Caregivers who regularly assist the consumer in the home are expected to continue to provide the same care in the shelter.
- Service dogs are allowed in the shelter. Check with the local Emergency Management office to see if other pets are permitted.
- Bring food items as listed above. It is possible only sparse meals will be provided.
- Smoking is not allowed in the shelter.

¹ Caregivers may be relatives, household members, guardians, friends, neighbors, employees or volunteers.