

# CDC's Environmental Health Assessment Form for Disaster Shelters

Disaster shelters provide refuge and protection, and safely house individuals and emergency responders.

Environmental health practitioners play a key role in protecting the health and living environment of occupants of disaster shelters by conducting pre-occupancy and post-event assessments of these facilities.

The Environmental Health Assessment Form for Disaster Shelters, updated in 2018, is available online at <https://emergency.cdc.gov/shelterassessment/>. A guide with instructions for using the form is also available. The assessment form is intended to:



- Serve as a standardized instrument for rapidly assessing and monitoring environmental health conditions in shelter facilities, before and after a disaster event;
- Cover selected environmental health areas ranging from basic food safety and water quality to pet (companion animal) wellness;
- Assist in identifying and prioritizing environmental health and safety issues in disaster shelters;
- Provide shelter management officials and disaster managers with actionable information and recommendations for improving the living environment of the shelter occupants;
- Capture data and create documentation for use in future planning, disaster training and improvement of the operations of disaster shelters; and
- Complement inspection forms, not replace.

The assessment is not a substitute for local shelter inspection procedures or planning activities. The assessment is also available in Spanish and French.

For more information on CDC's Environmental Health Assessment Form for Disaster Shelters, please contact Miguel Cruz (770) 488-3637 or [mgc8@cdc.gov](mailto:mgc8@cdc.gov) or Kelsey McDavid (770) 788-3491 or [ngl7@cdc.gov](mailto:ngl7@cdc.gov). Users of this tool are encouraged to submit feedback via e-mail at [CDCshelterform@cdc.gov](mailto:CDCshelterform@cdc.gov).



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