

Information about Medical Needs Shelters

Information about Medical Needs Shelters can be obtained by contacting the following agencies:

**The Mobile County Emergency Management Agency
251-460-8000**

**The Mobile County Health Department
251-690-8884**

During an emergency, please call the MCEMA.

The successful planning and operation of a Medical Needs Shelter involves the coordination of several different agencies throughout Mobile County. The Mobile County Emergency Management Agency, the Mobile County Health Department, The Mobile County Department of Human Resources, The Alabama Defense Force, The Mobile County Public School System, Volunteer Mobile, and Volunteers of America coordinate efforts and resources essential to providing shelter and care, during emergencies, for persons with special needs.

Who are considered special needs persons?

Persons who require minimal or moderate assistance with daily living activities will be admitted to a medical needs shelter. Persons who are bedridden will not be admitted.

A person who meets one or more of the following criteria is considered to have special needs:

- A portable ventilator
- STABLE oxygen, nebulizer, or sleep apnea treatment
- Foley/ supra-pubic catheter
- Frequently incontinent (urinary/bowel)
- Ostomies

Persons requiring Peritoneal Dialysis or IV treatments will only be allowed if care is home managed, self-administered or family assisted.

Any persons with medical needs must be accompanied by a healthy age-appropriate caregiver for the entire duration of their shelter stay.

What is Medical Shelter Triage?

Once a person is admitted to a Medical Needs Shelter, a nursing staff member will evaluate their medical condition to determine the most appropriate course of care or treatment.

However, if at any time a nurse determines that a person with special needs cannot be adequately treated or cared for at a Medical Needs Shelter, other accommodations may be arranged.

A Medical Needs Shelter is not equipped to care for or treat bedridden persons.

What should a special needs person bring to a Medical Needs Shelter?

It is recommended that all special needs persons bring enough of the following items for a 72 hour period.

- Prescription medications and medical supplies
- Bedding materials for cots (sheets, pillows, and blankets)
- Contact list for relatives, doctors, etc.
- Nonperishable dietary foods or supplies

CAREGIVER!

What is a Medical Needs Shelter?

A secure facility with generator back-up power, water, sanitation, limited food service and medical oversight to serve as a refuge of last resort during emergency conditions for persons with physical and/or mental conditions requiring limited medical/nursing oversight who cannot be accommodated in a general population shelter and who bring their own caregiver, medical supplies, equipment, and special dietary supplies for a 72 hour period.

It is important to note, a Medical Needs Shelter is not a substitute for hospital care.

Where is a Medical Needs Shelter located?

Mobile County has one facility pre-designated as a Medical Needs Shelter Depending upon the circumstances surrounding an emergency or once the shelter reaches a maximum capacity of 100 persons, additional sites may also be opened as Medical Needs Shelters.

Medical Needs Shelter for Mobile County

Collins-Rhodes Elementary School

5110 St. Stephens Road

Eight Mile, AL 36613

How is the public informed once a Medical Needs Shelter is opened?

The Mobile County Emergency Management Agency is responsible for notifying the public once a Medical Needs Shelter is opened. The public is advised of all shelter related information through local media such as radio, television and newspaper

DIRECTIONS TO COLLINS-RHODES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1. HEAD EAST ON US-98 TOWARD S JEFFERSON ST - 0.6 MI
2. TURN LEFT AT S JACKSON ST - 0.1 MI
3. TURN RIGHT AT DAUPHIN ST - 0.4 MI
4. TURN LEFT AT N WATER ST - 0.7 MI
5. SLIGHT RIGHT AT I-165 N/US-90 E/US-98-TRUCK E CONTINUE TO FOLLOW I-165 N - 4.6 MI
6. TAKE EXIT 1A TO MERGE ONTO I-65 S TOWARD MOBILE - 1.1 MI
7. TAKE EXIT 8 TO MERGE ONTO ST STEPHENS RD/US-45 TOWARD CITRONELLE - 2.8 MI

ARRIVE AT: COLLINS-RHODES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 5110 SAINT STEPHENS RD, EIGHT MILE, AL 36613

