

Public Health Precautions Concerning the Gulf Oil Spill

ODOR

Some people may be sensitive to the smell of oil. Symptoms of sensitivity may include nausea, vomiting or headaches. If you are experiencing sensitivity, authorities recommend you consider staying indoors, ventilating your home with air conditioning, and avoiding strenuous outdoor activity.

If sensitivity symptoms do not improve, you should then consider contacting your primary care physician or other health care provider for medical advice. If you have pre-existing medical conditions, such as asthma or other respiratory illness, you should consider communicating with your physician if you feel symptomatic.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

The following protective measures should be taken if you are in the area of the Gulf oil spill:

- It is recommended that the public does not handle balls of tar.
 - Avoid direct skin contact with the oil.
 - If you get oil or tar balls on your skin, wash with soap and water.
 - Launder clothing as usual if you get oil on it.
 - There is no need to use harsh detergents, solvents or other chemicals to wash oil from skin or clothing, and it is discouraged.
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FOOD ADVISORIES

- If seafood smells or tastes like oil, do not eat it.
 - Wash hands before eating.
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Advisories will be posted as necessary.