

Gulf Oil Spill Clean Up Efforts Continue *Passport Health Offers Support to Disaster Clean-Up Crews*

MIAMI, FL- 6/29/2010- As crude oil continues to gash out of from deep within the Gulf, contamination to wildlife, and now humans, remains a chief concern for public health officials. “We are seriously concerned about the short and long-term effects of this oil spill,” said Fran Lessans, CEO of [Passport Health](#), the nation’s leading provider of travel medical services and immunizations. Possible Hurricane-strength winds are predicted to complicate the clean-up efforts as [tropical storm Alex](#) moves into the area.

“Crews working on the spill, whether at sea or on-shore, should take some precautionary measures to protect themselves and avoid possible health issues,” cautioned Lessans. [Corexit EC9500A](#), a toxic dispersant that has been used in the Gulf Spill clean-up efforts, is a known respiratory irritant. *National Newsdesk* reported a few weeks ago that Dr. Damon Dietrich, an emergency room physician at West Jefferson Medical Center in New Orleans, stated that workers cleaning up the BP oil rig have come to the hospital with respiratory problems, nausea, and headaches.

“Upper respiratory problems can become more serious for those who are already compromised with lung conditions—such as asthma—or those who have other chronic conditions,” Lessans added. “These people should consider a [pneumococcal vaccination](#) to avoid possible complications if they are going to be working close to the spill.”

Passport Health makes [recommendations for vaccines](#), portable water purifiers, and measures to prevent food and water-borne illnesses for each respondent. “In these situations conditions are less than sanitary and we want to insure that no one gets sick. Clean water is an issue right now,” Lessans concluded.

Passport Health has the following immunizations and protective products available:

- [Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertusis](#) (TDaP)
- [Hepatitis A and B](#)
- [Typhoid Fever](#)
- Personal Water Filtration Bottles (automatically filters up to 600 refills)
- Personal Wound Care Kits
- Oral Rehydration Packets (rice based –easily dissolvable with liquids)
- Anti diarrheal kits
- Mosquito Repellents
- Personal Pollution-Filtering Masks

Oil exposed to Corexit EC95000 seeps deeper into the water. Some of the toxic components of the crude oil, like benzene, xylenes, naphthalenes and toluene are then ingested by fish as well as plants and organisms that marine animals consume. Once in the food chain, it may take years until these marine organisms are fit for human consumption.

BP reports that 13,100 cubic yards of oily waste have been buried in Louisiana and 761 tons of crude-contaminated waste has been buried at the two landfills in Alabama and Florida.

The [CDC](#) is conducting surveillance across the five Gulf States. The surveillance systems track symptoms related to the skin, eyes, neurological, gastrointestinal, respiratory and cardiovascular systems. Symptoms may include worsening of asthma, cough, chest pain, eye irritation, nausea, and headache.

Passport Health has supplied, on short notice, doctors and nurses to postal and publishing facilities along the east coast after the Anthrax attack of 2001. Additionally the company prepared relief workers and relatives of victims of the [Tsunami in Indonesia](#). After hurricane Katrina, Passport Health nurses were deployed to the Gulf Coast to vaccinate utility and relief workers. Passport Health nurses also supplied free [flu shots](#) to residents and Emergency Response Teams affected by the California wild fires and is currently working with relief organizations and volunteers traveling to [Haiti for earthquake relief work](#).
