



Charlie Crist  
Governor

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State Surgeon General

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**Pre-registration suspended for special needs shelter as Ida nears**  
- Individuals will be assessed as they arrive at shelter -

PENSACOLA (FL) – The Escambia County Health Department is now suspending the requirement to pre-register for the Special Needs Shelter. Individuals will be assessed as they arrive at the shelter to determine if they can be served by the special needs shelter. Those planning to evacuate to the special needs shelter are reminded of the following requirements:

**Who qualifies?**

Residents must be able to live on-their-own but rely on nursing assistance for some medical help or electrical power for their medical equipment.

**What to bring**

1. A caregiver is required; your caregiver helps you with meals and using the bathroom.
2. Medications, medical equipment, and food for special diets
3. Bedding (sheet, blanket and pillow). The shelter provides a military-style cot without bedding.
4. If possible, a fully charged cell phone. The shelter does not have a public phone.

**Location, Directions**

- West Florida High School, Building 25 and 26
- 2400 Longleaf Drive, Pensacola, 32526
- Travel north on Highway 90 to Pine Forest Road. Continue on Pine Forest Road. Take a left onto Longleaf and follow signs to the Shelter.

**Type of Care**

- Health Department nurses monitor vital signs, administer medication when necessary, and respond to signs of distress.
- Meals are provided.

**Before evacuating**

- 1.) Tell your home health care agency where you are going. Bring the name and phone number of your home health agency to the shelter.
- 2.) Get extra supplies of oxygen from your medical equipment provider.
- 3.) Tell your out-of-town family about your emergency plan.

- more -



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**Other shelters**

Residents who do not qualify for the Special Needs Shelter, may be able to stay at a general shelter. General shelters do not have medical staff but they can help the elderly who:

- Use a walker, wheelchair, or cane
- Take their medications without help from a nurse
- Don't need electrical power for their medical equipment

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