

HHS Office for Civil Rights in Action



August 30, 2021

Limited Waiver of HIPAA Sanctions and Penalties as the Result of the Hurricane Ida

What: President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. has declared an emergency and HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra has declared a public health emergency as a result of the consequences of Hurricane Ida in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Where: Louisiana and Mississippi

Actions/Follow-Up:

- The Declaration of a Public Health Emergency (PHE) may be found at: <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/Hurricane-Ida-2021.aspx>
- Please view the Waiver or Modification of Requirements under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act at: <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/section1135/Pages/Hurricane-Ida-2021.aspx>
- OCR's bulletin on the Limited Waiver of HIPAA Sanctions and Penalties due to Hurricane Ida may be found at: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-hurricane-ida-hipaa-bulletin.pdf>
- For information about how the HIPAA Privacy Rule applies in a public health emergency, visit the [OCR'S HIPAA Emergency Preparedness, Planning, and Response page](#) or you may use the [HIPAA Disclosures for Emergency Preparedness Decision Tool](#).
- For information and resources for emergency responders/officials to help ensure individuals have equal access to emergency services, including language access and effective communication, please see this checklist for emergency responders: [HHS OCR Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Ensuring Language Access and Effective Communication](#).
- For information about emergency requirements for long-term care facilities, visit the [CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule page](#).

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