

- The mud and related dust can be a respiratory irritant if inhaled in large amounts. People with chronic respiratory issues like asthma or other concerns should avoid breathing the dust by staying inside with windows and doors closed or by wearing a dust mask if outside in an area with visible dust in the air. If working in excessive levels dust or vapors, a respirator is recommended.
- Most pathogens in the dust die when exposed to sunlight.
- Spilled gasoline and other petroleum products were diluted greatly by the huge volume of flood water. These products are volatile and are not expected to remain in the dust after it is exposed to air for a short period. Residents with spilled petroleum inside their houses should contact the NYSDEC (607-775-2545).
- People with dust on their property can hose down yards, cars and other impacted areas if there is not a water conservation order in place. Children's play sets and outdoor toys can be hosed down and disinfected if necessary with a bleach and water solution (One cup bleach to five gallons of water) and allowed to dry.
- Garden vegetables in dusty neighborhoods should be thoroughly washed with soap and water before eating. Outdoor grills in dusty areas should be cleaned with soap and water before use.
- Close windows and doors in dusty areas to avoid getting this material inside. Wipe your feet or remove shoes before going indoors.
- Wash hands before eating and after handling/cleaning dusty/muddy items. Wash clothes as normal.