



NEW ORLEANS

METROPOLITAN CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

New Orleans Update: Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Safety and Health Concerns

3/03/06

Is New Orleans destroyed?

There are still residential areas that have sustained considerable damage and are in varying levels of rebuilding. However, these areas are not located in the parts of New Orleans frequented by visitors. The French Quarter, the downtown district, the arts and entertainment district, Faubourg Marigny, the Garden District and the Convention Center are alive and well and actively tending to visitors today.

What is the air quality like in New Orleans?

The air quality in New Orleans is very safe according to comprehensive testing by the EPA, DEQ, CDC and the New Orleans Department of Health. Dr. Kevin Stephens, Director of the New Orleans Department of Health stated that the Department has tested, retested and continues to test land, sea and air, and these tests repeatedly confirm that the city is safe for residents and visitors. The EPA, DEQ, CDC and the New Orleans Department of Health work side by side on a daily basis to provide the most current environmental information to citizens and visitors. Thousands of residents are returning. Please visit www.airnow.gov for daily information concerning air quality.

Should I be afraid of getting sick from mold in the air in New Orleans?

No. The CBD and all tourist areas have been cleaned and present no health hazard. There may be some mold issues in unremediated homes in the outlying neighborhoods, and one would only be affected if one actually entered the premises.

If I get sick in New Orleans, where can I get medical attention?

These hospitals are operational and staffed and tend to the needs of New Orleanians every day.

Children's Hospital
200 Henry Clay Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
www.chnola.org

Ochsner Clinic Foundation
1514 Jefferson Highway
New Orleans, LA 70121
www.ochsner.org

Tulane University Hospital and Clinic
1415 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112
www.tuhc.com

East Jefferson General Hospital
4200 Houma Boulevard
Metairie, LA 70006
www.eastjeffhospital.org

Omega Hospital
2525 Severn Avenue
Metairie, LA
www.omega-institute.com

Tulane-Lakeside Hospital
4700 s I-10 Service Road West
Metairie, LA 70001
www.lakesidehospital.com

Kenner Regional Medical Center
180 West Esplanade Avenue
Kenner, LA 70065
www.kennerregional.com

Touro Infirmary
1404 Foucher Street
New Orleans, LA 70115
www.touro.com

West Jefferson Medical Center
1101 Medical Center Boulevard
Marrero, LA 70072
www.wjmc.org

Are there enough police officers to help keep New Orleans safe?

New Orleans has over 1350 police officers on the force, which equates to more police officers per capita than before the hurricane. The city is safer today than before the storms with crime down to record lows in every category. The police stations in the French Quarter, the central business district and throughout the areas frequented by visitors are fully staffed and operational.

With all the workers using hotel rooms in New Orleans, where will I stay?

More than 25,000 hotel rooms are currently open in the New Orleans metropolitan area. While some of these rooms are being used to house hotel employees and people helping with the rebuilding of New Orleans there are many thousands of more rooms available for visitors to the city. The NOMCVB is happy to assist you in booking rooms and services.



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Is anyone helping the displaced residents restore their businesses and assist in rebuilding New Orleans?

The city, state and federal government are providing aid and assistance to both displaced residents and businesses in their efforts to return to New Orleans and rebuild. Numerous tax and financial incentives are available, business counseling centers have been established throughout the state, and the city is working diligently with FEMA and local organizations to help people return and rebuild their homes.

Can I still experience the same restaurants I know and love in New Orleans?

As of February 3, 2006 nearly 1000 restaurants have reopened in New Orleans. Chef's Paul Prudhomme, Emeril Lagasse, John Besh, Susan Spicer, and numerous other famous chefs have returned and reopened their restaurants and are eagerly waiting to serve you. Please visit www.Ira.org for additional information.

When I'm in New Orleans, how will I travel around the city?

The largest Taxicab company is open and operating. The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority and the New Orleans Canal Streetcar line is running and currently offering complimentary rides. Rental car companies are also back in business. Transportation into and around the city is ready.

Is New Orleans ready for me?

Yes. While there are parts of New Orleans that have been severely damaged by the hurricanes, the majority of the city - especially where you will be visiting and touring - are repaired and ready for your visit. The music, restaurants, and the overall experience of New Orleans is alive and well, and open for business. The city is prepared to serve the needs of each individual, ensuring you a safe, exciting and enjoyable time in New Orleans.

- The sooner New Orleans tourism gets back to work, the sooner the city workers, teachers and other working women and men of New Orleans can return to work
- Getting back to business will bring displaced New Orleans back faster
- Events such as the successful Mardi Gras 2006 are proof that New Orleans is safe, clean, hospitable and ready for visitors again