

## **FTCA Coverage for Health Center Providers Responding to Emergency Situations**

*Sept. 5, 2017*

At present, the only health centers who can receive FTCA coverage for services provided in or near disaster areas, or for persons displaced by a disaster, are:

- Health centers whose service area was directly impacted by the disaster.
- Health centers whose service area is located in an area (county, parish, or other political subdivision) that is adjacent to an area that was directly impacted.

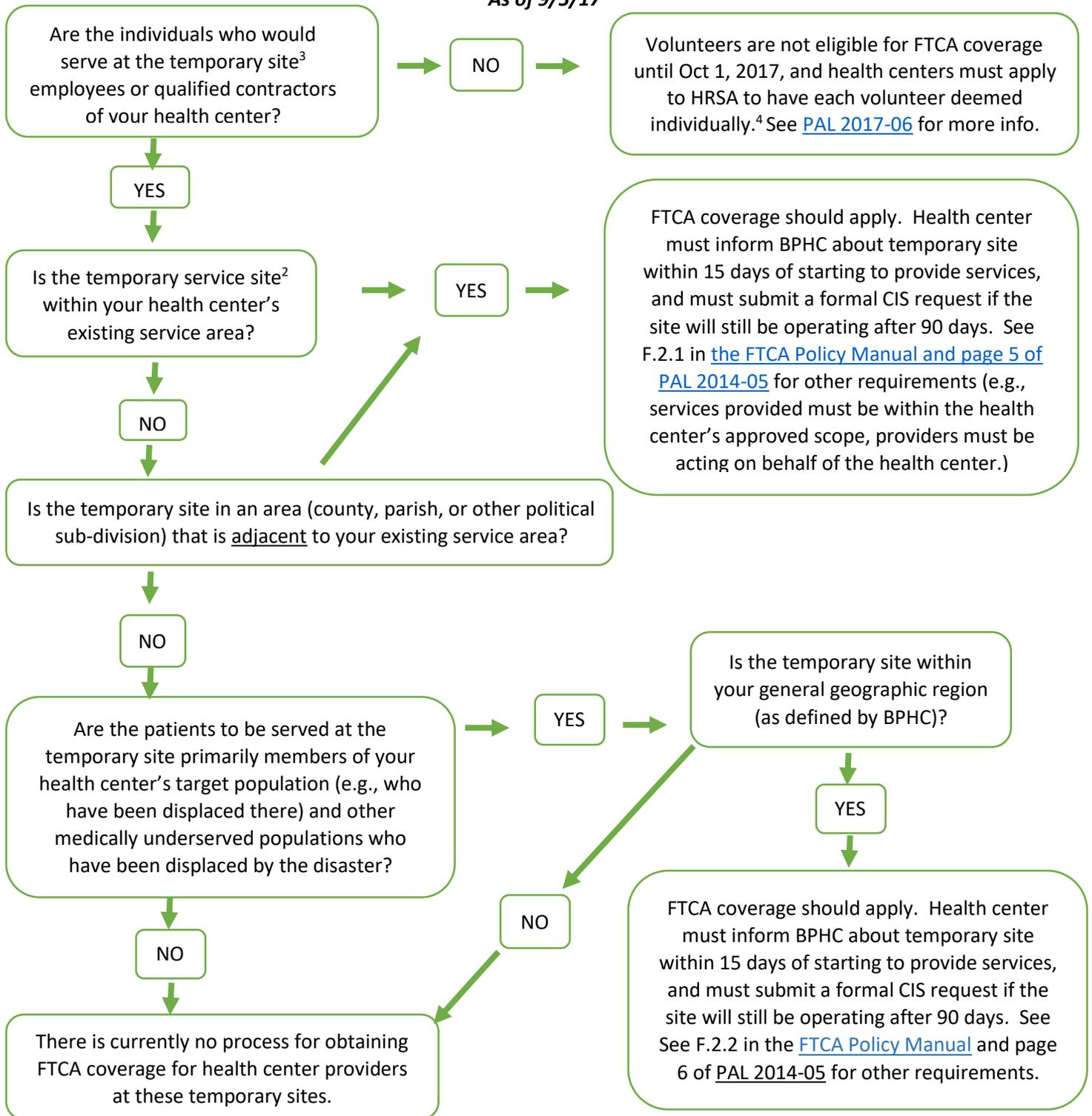
Also, health centers whose target population was directly impacted by the disaster may receive FTCA coverage for caring for these patients (and others impacted by the disaster) at locations that are neither in nor adjacent to their service area. For example, a health center from Houston may receive FTCA coverage for providing services in a shelter in Austin for persons displaced by Hurricane Harvey if members of its target population are housed in that shelter.

The requirements for each arrangement are slightly different, and it is necessary to inform BPHC of any temporary sites within 15 days of starting services; for more information, please refer to the attached flowchart, which refers to the relevant section of the FTCA Manual and PAL 2014-05.

Finally, note that coverage for providers who are volunteering with a health center is not effective until October 1, 2017, and until a deeming application for the individual provider has been approved by BPHC. This is true even for health centers located in, or adjacent to, disaster areas.

# FTCA Coverage of Health Center Providers in Temporary Sites Responding to Emergency Situations<sup>1</sup>

Based on [FTCA Policy Manual](#) and [PAL 2014-05](#)<sup>2</sup>- See the Manual and PAL for more information  
As of 9/5/17



1 See FTCA Manual for definition of a qualifying “emergency.”

2 Note that PIN 2007-16 has been superseded by the FTCA Manual and PAL 2014-02.

3 “Temporary sites” could include, but are not limited to, an existing site operated by another health center, a local hospital, or a place that provides shelter to evacuees or victims of the emergency. See the FTCA Manual and PAL for more information.

4 It is possible that the volunteer would qualify for immunity or limited liability under State or Federal charitable immunity/limited liability statutes (such as the Federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997) or under Federal provisions related to the National Disaster Medical System (section 2811 of the PHS Act).