

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FLOODING HEALTH AND SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS**

With the recent heavy rains and local flooding, the Juneau County Health Department has the following advice for ensuring your drinking water is safe.

**CHECKING YOUR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY**

**Municipal or City Water**

- If you are on city or municipal water follow the instructions of the local utility. Follow all boil water orders. Once the order is lifted the general guidance is to flush all cold and hot waterlines for 5 minutes prior to using the water. If you still have concerns regarding color, odor, taste, or clarity contact your utility. Private testing of municipal water is not necessary.

**Private Wells**

- If you have a private well or water from a shared private well, do not use water from a private well that has been flooded or the well cover was submerged by flood water. If you are not certain about the safety of your water supply do not use the water.
- The well should be disinfected before testing. Disinfection is best done by a licensed well driller or pump installer. For a list of licensed well drillers or pump installers, please visit <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wells/contacts.html>
- If you would like to try and disinfect your own well instructions are available at the DNRs drinking website, <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/DG/DG0003.pdf>
- After the well has been disinfected wait one week before testing for total coliform bacteria.
- To complete well water testing:
  1. Complete the disinfection process as soon as possible if your well was flooded or the well cover was submerged. Testing should be done only on disinfected wells.
  2. Beginning Wednesday, September 5, Well Water Sample Collection Kits for testing of suspected flood contaminated wells will be available at the Juneau County Health Department and at the City Hall in the towns of Elroy, Wonewoc, Union Center, Camp Douglas, Mauston, New Lisbon, and Necedah during regular business hours, and at Miller's Store in Lyndon Station.
  3. The well water test sample should ONLY be collected on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday and mailed to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene on the SAME DAY it is collected. Do not let the sample package sit in your mail box overnight.

Only drink water from a known safe source or bottled water until you receive your test results.

For more detailed information on clean up and flood safety, refer to the Wisconsin Department of Health at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/flood> or contact the Juneau County Health Department at (608)847-9373.