



# St. Clair County Health Department NEWS RELEASE

Information     Advisory     Warning     Update

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## *Protecting Your Private Well Water Supply After a Flood*

The St. Clair County Health Department is issuing a public health advisory for residents who may have contaminated well heads or well water due to flooding. Emergencies such as power outages and flooding can threaten the quality of drinking water from your well water system. Flood water contains bacteria and viruses from soil, organic debris, and sewage systems along with fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemical contaminants.

If your well has been flooded, you should **immediately refrain from drinking the water** and following steps should be taken:

- Once flooding recedes, begin flushing the water system. Hook a hose up to an outside faucet or a faucet near the water storage tank and flush the water for at least 2 hours after the water clears up. Several hours of pumping may be needed depending on water volume. Once water is clear at storage tank, flush the home distribution piping.
- Contact a MI registered water well drilling contractor and request that your water system be disinfected.
- After flushing the chlorine from the system, collect a water sample and submit it to a certified lab for coliform bacteria analysis.
- Contact the St. Clair County Health Department Environmental Health division at (810)987-5306 if further assistance is needed.

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