

# FLOOD PRECAUTIONS

Huron County



Public Health

## PRIVATE WELLS

### FLOOD PRECAUTIONS FOR PRIVATE WELLS:

If there is evidence of water entering the home or flood waters are quickly approaching:

- Store a supply of clean water before taking your well out of service.
- Disconnect the power supply for your well. If you need help, consult with a licensed well contractor or pump installer.
- If you have time, have a well contractor install a water-tight cap or cover on your well.
- If you don't have time, clean off the outside of the well casing and cover the top of the well with a heavy-duty trash bag. Secure the plastic covering with electrical tape or some other type of waterproof tape. This does NOT eliminate the need for disinfection and testing, but it will keep debris and sediment out of well.
- Be prepared to have your well disinfected and tested after the flood waters recede.
- Do not store oil, gasoline, solvents, animal wastes and chemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers within 100 feet of the well.

### FLOOD RECOVERY OF PRIVATE WELL:

- If flood water reached your well, assume your well is contaminated. Water from well should not be used for drinking, cooking, or brushing teeth.
- DO NOT TURN ON THE PUMP!
- Have a licensed well contractor inspect the well, clean and disinfect the well.
- If flood water reached only the top of your well casing, have a licensed well contractor disinfect the well or complete the disinfection yourself. Disinfect your well using a chlorine solution.
- After disinfecting and pumping out the chlorine solution, contact a testing lab about submitting a water sample.
- You will need to have the well tested for coliform bacteria, the lab will provide a bottle for the sample.
- Don't use the water from your well until the lab has informed you that is safe, and free of bacterial contamination.

For detailed information on how to disinfect private water systems, visit:

<http://www.huroncohealth.com/environmental-programs/private-water-systems.html>

Huron County General Health District offers water sampling services, contact the Environmental Division at 419-668-1652 ext. 239.