

Flood Response Resources

MARCH 2019

Drinking Water

- Flooding is one of the most common hazards to drinking water systems, with the potential to cause more damage than any other severe weather related event. It is MDH's goal to provide information, resources, and assistance to public drinking water systems to help them withstand a flooding event, minimize damage, and rapidly recover from any disruptions due to flooding. With the heightened risk of flooding this spring, the MDH Drinking Water Protection Program has set up a new webpage to help public drinking water systems proactively prepare for, and know how to respond to, any flooding related impacts.
- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/flood>

Well Management

- With the increasing possibility of flooding in many parts of the state, MDH recently issued a news release (link provided below) with information about how private well owners can protect their well from potential floodwaters and recommendations on how to ensure the safety of private well water after a flood. You can use this news release to communicate to private well owners and others in your area.

If flooding impacts your county, MDH can assist by providing information on flood impacts, well disinfection, and testing. Questions about flooded wells can be referred to MDH's district offices listed in the link below. Other useful links are provided below as well.

If floodwaters affect large numbers of private wells in your area and you would like assistance with responding to flooded well water testing requests, contact MDH's Well Management (WM) Section to discuss distribution of well test kits from MDH to owners of flooded private wells. The test kits and bacteria analysis will be of no charge to the county or the private well owner. Well Management staff will notify well users of their results, or if the county prefers to have the sample results emailed to them and to contact the well owners, that can be arranged. To learn more contact MDH's Well Management Section at 651-201-4600 or health.wells@state.mn.us.

- Link to Press Release Concerning Flooded Wells:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2019/wellflood031819.html>
- Link to WM Map/District Offices:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/contactus.html>
- WM Page on Flood Precautions for Private Water Wells:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/natural/floodprecautions.html>

- Licensed Well Contractor Directory:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/lwc/index.html>
- MDH Accredited Labs:
<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>

Behavioral Health

- Natural disasters such as floods create stress and anxiety for individuals and the community. Handouts are available on the MDH Behavioral Health web page that are designed to help disaster responders, adults/families, teens, and children to understand and manage disaster stress.
- The MDH Behavioral Health web page is at:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/behavioral/index.html>

Vaccinations

- There is usually no increased risk of getting vaccine-preventable diseases, like tetanus or hepatitis A, during a flood. However, those working in clean up may be wounded and exposed to soil that contains the bacteria that causes tetanus. Most people get a tetanus shot that is combined with vaccines for diphtheria and pertussis. Children should have a basic series of four tetanus shots at 2-18 months of age and should receive booster shots at 4-6 years and 11-12 years. Adults should get a tetanus booster shot every 10 years.
- Our tetanus basics, that includes information about floods, can be found here:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/tetanus/tetanusfacts.html>

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5700. Printed on recycled paper.