



KANKAKEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Subject: Flooding and Water Sanitation

Well Water Safety during Flooding in Kankakee County

Recent heavy rainfall, mixed with warming temperatures, snow melt and lingering frozen ground has created conditions that may affect private wells and drinking water in the Kankakee County area. Owners who see flood waters very near or over their wells should assume their drinking water is contaminated and take the following steps:

- STOP drinking the water and find another safe source;
- Once the waters recede, make sure the well is properly disinfected;
- Before drinking the water again, sample the well to assure the water is safe.

Flood waters and rain runoff may contain bacteria and other contaminants that can affect water supplies and cause illness. Wells located in pits, basements and low-lying areas are especially susceptible to contamination.

Disinfection and sampling is best done by a licensed well driller or pump installer. Any water supply system that has been submerged by flood waters should be pumped out once the floodwater recedes, then thoroughly disinfected and tested to determine that the water is safe.

For more information on bacterial contamination of drinking water wells, along with lists of licensed well drillers, pump installers, or to have your well inspected contact the Kankakee County Health Department at 815-802-9400 or visit our website www.kankakeehealth.org. Individuals can come to the Kankakee County Health Department at 2390 W Station Street in Kankakee from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday to pick up a well water test kit for flood related testing.

For individuals who receive drinking water from a public water supply, these systems are designed and operated to keep out contaminants. If you have concerns about the safety of your community's drinking water, contact your public water supplier. To ensure safe drinking of well water, well owners are encouraged to learn whether they have a properly constructed well and test it annually for bacteria.

For mold concerns and guidance on cleaning up after a flood, visit the Illinois Department of Public Health website at www.dph.illinois.gov, type "Mold FAQs" in the search box. If you are cleaning up after flooding, make sure your tetanus immunity is up to date. Check with your healthcare provider, or make an appointment at the health department for a tetanus booster.

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