

Attention Residents Affected By Recent Flooding Serviced by Well Water

March 2010

The Health Officer of Atlantic County advises residents serviced by well water in areas affected by recent flooding that their water supply might have been compromised as a result of the storm. Atlantic County Health Officer Patricia Diamond states as a precaution, that people living in homes serviced by a private well should use bottled water for cooking and drinking or disinfected their water prior to consumption, especially if flood waters rose above the well head. It is recommended that impacted homeowners continue to disinfect their water until their well is tested for the presence of bacteria. Testing can be arranged through the Atlantic County Division of Public Health at 609-645-5971 or by a private certified environmental laboratory.

Boil Water Order/Disinfection Instructions

All water to be used for drinking, cooking, making prepared drinks (such as ice tea or juice) or for brushing teeth should be disinfected. Water can be disinfected using one of the three following methods:

1. Heat water to a vigorous, rolling, and complete boil and allow it to boil for at least one minute.
2. In the event of a power outage, use household bleach to disinfect water. Add two drops of household chlorine bleach per quart of water. If water is cloudy, add four drops of bleach. Mix thoroughly and allow water to stand for 30 minutes before use. Water should have slight chlorine odor. If it does not, repeat the dosage and allow to stand for an additional 15 minutes.
3. Common, household iodine from a medicine chest or first aid kit can also be used to disinfect water. Add five drops of tincture of iodine to one quart of water. Mix thoroughly and allow the water to stand for 30 minutes before use.

If your well tests positive for bacteria, have a licensed well driller disinfect your well and plumbing system. After disinfection, the well should be retested.

If you have any further questions or need information regarding protecting your home after a flood, please contact the Atlantic County Division of Public Health at 609-645-5971 or visit www.aclink.org.