

## Public Health Messaging for Flooding and Resources

- Well Water Safety:
  - The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends that if flood waters come within 50 feet of a well that supplies water used for drinking, cooking, or brushing teeth, the well should be tested.
  - Flood waters can carry bacteria and other contaminants that may affect the quality of wells and may cause illness if consumed.
  - **Well test kits are available at Kanabec County Community Health Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.**
  - You may also chose to disinfect your private well yourself with a chlorine solution. If you disinfect the well yourself it is still in good practice to test the water to ensure it is safe for consumption.
  - If you must use the well water for drinking or food preparation before the well has been disinfected and tested, the water must be **brought to a full rolling boil, and then boiled for at least one more minute**. Bottled water is another option.
  - Links:
    - Flood Precautions for Private Water Wells:  
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/natural/floodprecautions.html>
    - How to Disinfect a Private Water Well:  
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/waterquality/disinfection.pdf>
- Septic Systems:
  - According to University of Minnesota Extension and the Onsite Sewage Treatment Program (OSTP) staff, if you have a septic system that is in the area affected by the recent flooding, there is potential for damage to the system.
  - If your system was flooded, the OSTP staff has recommendations on the following website to help your system recover:
    - <https://septic.umn.edu/septic-system-owners/maintenance/septic-flood>
- Clean Up to Prevent Mold Growth:
  - According to the Minnesota Department of Health Mold spores can germinate and grow in a moist or damp environment, on any surface that contains organic matter. A home that's been flooded can provide ideal conditions for the growth and proliferation of mold.
  - Indoor mold can trigger allergies or allergy-like symptoms affecting the upper respiratory system. Although other, more serious problems may occur if people are exposed to very high levels of mold.
  - For information on basic clean-up and safety while conducting clean-up efforts visit:
    - <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/emergency/natural/floods/mold/mold.html>