



Houston Health Department
Water & Dairy Laboratory
2250 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77030
832-393-3939
www.houstontx.gov/health/water.html



AFTER THE FLOOD – IS YOUR WATER SAFE?

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

If you are on a Public Water System (PWS), your municipality, water utility, or system owner will notify you of any unsafe drinking water conditions in the system and provide directions on what you can do to prevent exposure. Please contact your service provider directly for any questions or concerns. The (PWS) may include subdivisions, trailer parks, apartment homes, duplexes, townhomes or condos etc.

PRIVATE WATER WELLS

Private drinking water wells in flooded areas should always be considered contaminated.

WARNING! DO NOT TURN ON THE PUMP until you are sure it's safe to do so.

There is danger of electrical shock and damage to your well or pump if they have been flooded

WARNING! DO NOT DRINK OR WASH WITH WELL WATER

People drinking or washing with water from a private well that has been flooded will risk getting sick.

If your well or the area around it was flooded:

STOP USING THE WATER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND CONTACT.

Use only bottled or boiled water as an alternative source for drinking, cooking (including washing food you eat raw), and bathing until you can disinfect your well and have a sample tested.

To ensure destruction of all harmful bacteria and other microbes, water for human consumption (including washing food you eat raw) and contact (bathing, brushing teeth, and washing hands) should be boiled and cooled prior to use. The water should be brought to a vigorous, rolling boil and then boiled for two minutes.



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If your well or the ground around it flooded, FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW

After the flood waters recede:

- Disinfect the well according the directions provided by your local health department or TCEQ (see below)
- Obtain an approved bottle and submission form an accredited lab or a health department official.
- Collect a sample from the well and have it tested by an accredited lab.
- If your lab reports show NO Coliform/E. coli bacteria wait a few days and sample it again.
- If you get a second report with NO Coliform/E. coli bacteria, your water should be bacteriologically safe to use.
- Continue to periodically test your well so you will be aware of any recontamination that might occur.

Our Laboratory is located at

2250 Holcombe Blvd
Houston, TX 77030
832-393-3939

North Houston drop off point (for transport to Holcombe Laboratory)

Northside Health Center
8504 Schuller Road
Houston, TX 77093
713.696.5900

The Northside Health Center will accept drinking water samples from 9:00 am – 11:00 am Monday through Wednesday. The second Wednesday of every month the clinic closes at 11:30 am.



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Helpful Information

Houston Health Department Well sampling and disinfection instructions

<http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Lab/water.html>

EPA After the Flood

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-05/documents/epa816f05021.pdf>

TCEQ Disinfecting Your Private Well

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-432.html>