

News Release #1

Richland County Health & Human Services
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Water Testing for Wells Impacted by Flood Waters

Richland Center, WI: Richland County Health & Human Services is advising the public to test wells which may have been impacted by recent flood waters.

Private well owners should suspect their drinking water is contaminated by floodwaters if:

- the well has become submerged or overrun by floodwaters;
- the well does not have a deep casing and is near areas that have been flooded;
- there's a change in taste or color or sediment is present in water.

If you feel your well has become contaminated with floodwaters:

- immediately stop drinking the water and using it for cooking, preparing food, making ice, or brushing your teeth;
- switch to water from a known, safe source; and
- disinfect your well and test the water before you drink or use the water again

The Public Health Office is recommending that if wells have been inundated, they should be tested. Prior to collecting a sample, however, the well should be disinfected. Contact Richland County Public Health or check out the DNR website for further information regarding the technique involved with disinfecting a well.

All well samples should be collected when they can be tested during the work week. By doing so, a property owner avoids having a sample being that is too old to test. Water test kits can be picked up at the Community Services Building and

at the Courthouse in the Emergency Management Office, Monday through Friday from 8am – 5pm.

Please contact the Richland County HHS-Public Health Office at 647-8821 or the Richland County Emergency Management Office at 647-8187 for questions or concerns.