

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department Urges Well Water Testing after Heavy Rainfall

Eau Claire, WI, September 23th, 2016 –The Eau Claire City-County Health Department is advising well-owners to consider testing their drinking water after the heavy rainfall received this week in our county. With heavy rainfall, there is a risk of contaminants getting into your well that could make you and your family sick.

The Health Department recommends testing your well if there is a chance your well cap was covered with water, as potential contaminants in that flood water could enter through the well cap and work their way into your water supply.

“If there has been flooding over your well cap, have your well tested for bacteria contamination. Testing ensures that your family’s drinking water supply is clean, safe and free of bacteria,” says Lieske Giese, Director/Health Officer of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

- Private well owners whose well has been flooded should assume that flooded wells are contaminated.
- Do not drink or bathe in water from a private well that has been or is flooded.
- Until test results are known, follow these steps to ensure safe drinking water:
 - Drink bottled water or water from a known, safe source.
 - If necessary, you can make water safe to drink by boiling it for five minutes.
 - When in doubt, if the water is cloudy, odorous, colored—do not drink the water!

To test your well wall, pick up a sample bottle at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. The cost to test for bacteria is \$17. If your well has unsafe levels of bacteria; the Health Department can recommend more tests or treatment options that can improve the safety of your water. For more information, call the Health Department at 715-839-4718.

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