



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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#### **Test Private Well Water**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The Alabama Department of Public Health urges residents of flooded areas, especially persons living in areas where there may have been flash flooding, to test their private water wells before consuming water from them.

Private wells that have been covered by flood water should be assumed to have been contaminated. Do not drink water from your well or feed it to your animals until you have tested it and have received a satisfactory test result.

Sample kits may be obtained from the local health departments and state health department laboratories which are equipped to sample well water for bacteriological contamination. Once a satisfactory sample is obtained, the well should be monitored by continued sampling to ensure the quality of the water supply.

Until water is known to be free of contaminants, residents should only use clear water which has been brought to a full boil for one minute.

Other recommendations are as follows:

- A tetanus booster is routinely recommended for anyone who has not had a tetanus booster in the past 10 years. If a person receives a wound, he or she should seek medical attention to determine if a tetanus booster is needed.
- Follow sanitary precautions such as thoroughly washing hands before eating or touching the face or mouth.
- Be on guard against snakes and balls of red ants, which may be common in some flooded areas. Anyone bitten by a snake should seek prompt medical attention.

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