

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

**Rick Scott**

Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS

State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:**

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FLOOD INFORMATION SHEET**ALERT TO PRIVATE WELL OWNERS IN FLOODED AREAS**

The Florida Department of Health in Escambia County (DOH-Escambia) advises private well owners affected by flood waters to take precautions against disease-causing organisms that may make water unsafe to drink.

DOH-Escambia recommends any of the following strategies to ensure the safety of water used in the household:

- Boil water before use, holding it at rolling boil for at least one minute before using it for drinking, brushing teeth, washing food, cooking, or washing dishes.
- Disinfect water by adding 8 drops (about 1/8 tsp – this would form a puddle about the size of a dime) of plain, unscented household bleach (4 to 6 percent active ingredient) per gallon of water, and then let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the procedure once. Use a container that has a cap or cover for disinfecting and storing water to be used for drinking. This will prevent contamination.
- Use bottled water, especially for mixing baby formula.

After the flooding subsides:

- Disinfect your well using the procedures provided at http://www.floridahealth.gov/healthy-environments/private-well-testing/documents/Flooded_Well_Broc.pdf. You may also visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website for instructions: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/well/whatdo.cfm>.
- If available, have your water tested through your county health department or by a laboratory certified by the state to perform a drinking water analysis for coliform bacteria.

For more information, please contact the DOH-Escambia's Environmental Health division at 850-595-6700 or visit www.escambiahealth.com or www.FloridaDisaster.org.

Florida Department of Health

Escambia County

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