

Flooding and Well-Water Safety

Floodwaters increase the risk of well-water contamination

Risk Factors

During a flood, there is an increased risk that both shallow or deep wells may become contaminated with bacteria. The risk of contamination increases if:

- your well or other wells close to yours are flooded or have elevated bacteria levels
- your well is shallow or is built on sand or gravel
- there are sources of contamination nearby
- the colour, clarity, taste or odour of your well-water has changed

When Boiling is Necessary

In flood-affected areas, you should **boil well-water for one minute before using** it for drinking or preparing food or, if you prefer, use bottled water. You should continue to take these steps until flooding is over and bacteria tests show your well-water is safe to use.

Free Well-Water Testing

Until June 30, 2011, the Manitoba government is waiving all fees for professional testing of private wells affected by flooding. You can pick up a collection bottle and instructions by visiting your local rural municipal office or Manitoba Water Stewardship and Conservation offices.

Learn More

For more detailed information about well-water safety as well as up-to-date flood forecasts and information, please visit the flood website at **manitoba.ca** or by calling **1-866-Manitoba**.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit the flood website at manitoba.ca

