



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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North Dakota Department of Health Offers Free Private Well Bacteriological Testing for Residents Affected by Flooding

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is offering free private well bacteriological testing for residents across the state affected by flooding.

After flood waters recede, residents concerned that their private wells have been flooded are advised to disinfect and flush their wells and home plumbing systems. (Directions are available at www.ndhealth.gov/flood. Click on Proper Well Disinfection.)

Following disinfection and flushing, residents may call the department's Division of Laboratory Services at 701.328.6272 to request a bacteriological sampling kit. The kit includes a specially-prepared container and instructions about how to collect and submit a sample to the laboratory for testing. Only samples collected using the kit can be tested. Residents also must use appropriate mail service to ensure that samples will arrive at the laboratory within 30 hours of collection; otherwise, the samples cannot be tested.

The Department of Health will notify residents regarding the test results.

Department of Health staff will be available to provide technical advice and assistance to residents should testing indicate bacteriological contamination. Technical assistance also is available from local environmental health departments.

For more information, contact Lisa Well, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.6272.

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