

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For More Information Contact**

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## **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECOMMENDS PRECAUTIONS FOR WELLS AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS**

(CHRISTIANSBURG, Va.) — The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) urges residents with wells and septic systems to take extra precautions following the recent severe weather and heavy rains. Floodwaters and runoff may contain sewage and agricultural or industrial waste, and can contaminate drinking water and damage septic systems.

If you suspect your well was flooded, or if your drinking water looks or smells different, do not drink it until it can be tested to ensure its safety. Use bottled water or water that has been brought to a rapid boil for at least one minute for drinking, brushing teeth or cooking or preparing food.

For more information, contact your local health district:

- Alleghany Health District, 540-283-5050;
- Central Shenandoah Health District, 540-332-7830;
- Central Virginia Health District, 434-947-6777;
- Cumberland Plateau Health District, 276-889-7621;
- Lenowisco Health District, 276-328-8000;
- Mount Rogers Health District, 276-781-7450;
- New River Health District, 540-381-7100;
- Pittsylvania/Danville Health District, 434-799-5190;
- Roanoke City Health District, 540-283-5050; or
- West Piedmont Health District, 276-638-2311.

You also may wish to call a plumbing or septic contractor, or visit these websites:

- [www.vdh.virginia.gov/weather/DrinkingWaterSafety.htm](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/weather/DrinkingWaterSafety.htm) (“Drinking Water Safety”);
- [www.vdh.virginia.gov/EnvironmentalHealth/Onsite/hurricane.htm](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/EnvironmentalHealth/Onsite/hurricane.htm) (“Before and After the Storm – Private Wells and Onsite Sewage Systems”);
- <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/well/whatdo.cfm> (“What to Do After the Flood”); and
- <http://water.epa.gov/drink/emerp/emerprep/emergencydisinfection.cfm> (“Emergency Disinfection of Drinking Water”).

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