

Guidance for Non-Community Water Systems
to Restore Wells that were Flooded and/or Damaged by Hurricane Sandy

(This guidance is in effect through November 30, 2012)

Disinfection Procedures

See Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

“Emergency Disinfection of Drilled or Driven Wells”

http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/safe_water/wells/disinfection_wells_drilled.html

and NJ Safe Drinking Water Act Regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:10 12.11

If your well has been flooded and/or damaged:

- Consult a NJ-licensed pump installer or well driller of the proper class (master, journeyman or journeymen B) in order to repair the well and to conduct **Disinfection Procedures** as per guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention link above and N.J.A.C. 7:10 12.11 et seq.
- A complete list of licensed and pump installers can be found at http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pw_permit.html

After Disinfection, upon confirmation of no chlorine residual in the well and the distribution system (DS)

- Collect a sample from each well in use and another from the distribution system tap furthest from the well for total coliform analysis.
- **If the samples from both the well(s) and distribution system samples are total coliform negative, the water may be used for drinking.**
- **If the initial post-disinfection results are positive for total coliform, repeat the well Disinfection Procedure as above.**
- **If any of the post-disinfection results are also E. coli-positive**
 - a. **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER**
 - b. Post Tier 1 public notice
 - c. Call NJDEP Drinking Water Program at 609-292-5550 **and** your County Health Department within 24 hours of notification by your certified laboratory of positive E. coli results. After business hours, call the NJDEP Hotline at 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337).
 - d. Repeat disinfection procedure as above.
- A subsequent set of coliform samples should be collected at the same locations between 5 to 10 days following the result that is negative for total coliform. **If any of the subsequent set of samples are positive for total coliform, repeat the well Disinfection Procedures as above. If any of these samples are positive for E. coli, call the NJDEP at 609-292-5550 or the NJDEP Hotline at 1-877-927-6337.**
- Consult with the NJDEP Drinking Water Program (609) 292-5550 for further guidance if you continue to have positive total coliform and E. coli results following multiple disinfection attempts.

If you suspect your well has been flooded:

Sample the well and the distribution system to determine if there is a coliform bacteria problem that must be remedied prior to resuming use of the water system for drinking.

- Collect one sample from each well in use and another from the distribution system tap furthest from the well and test for total coliform bacteria.
- **If both the well(s) and distribution system samples are negative for total coliform, the water may be used for drinking.**
- **If any samples are positive for total coliform, follow Disinfection Procedures**, found at the web address above.
- **If any of the results are also positive for E. coli**
 - a. **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER**
 - b. Post Tier 1 public notice
 - c. Call NJDEP Drinking Water Program at 609-292-5550 **and** your County Health Department within 24 hours of notification by your certified laboratory of positive E. coli results. After business hours, call the NJDEP Hotline at 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337).
 - d. Repeat disinfection procedure as above.
- A subsequent set of coliform samples should be collected at the same locations between 5 to 10 days following the result that is negative for total coliform. **If any of the subsequent set of samples are positive for total coliform, repeat the well Disinfection Procedures as above. If any of these samples are positive for E. coli, call the NJDEP at 609-292-5550 or the NJDEP Hotline at 1-877-927-6337.**

Additional Notes:

If there is any treatment unit (e.g. water softener, cartridge filter) present, it needs to be bypassed prior to disinfection of the well and distribution system.

“Special sampling” for coliform bacteria: Samples taken to verify that a potable water supply well has not been adversely affected, or samples taken to verify the effectiveness of repairs and disinfection, will not be considered routine samples subject to the compliance requirements of the USEPA Ground Water Rule and Total Coliform Rule. This thirty day special sampling period is intended to address the immediate concerns created by Hurricane Sandy and expires November 30, 2012.

All samples must be analyzed by a NJ certified laboratory in accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water regulations of the Total Coliform Rule and the Ground Water Rule. Chlorine residual measurements should be taken at all sampling locations and recorded on the chain of custody. Total coliform results in which a chlorine residual is detected will be invalidated. Please indicate on the chain of custody and E2 submission that these samples are not for compliance. To indicate that the E2 submissions are not compliance samples, enter “N” in the Compliance Sample field in the Sample Information section of the Coliform E2 Submission spreadsheet. Please add “H” to the end of these sample numbers.

While this Guidance is in effect, coliform results submitted on the Coliform Samples State Report Form will be accepted by the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water.