

**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 &amp; Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation**FLOOD INFORMATION SHEET****ALERT TO PRIVATE WELL OWNERS IN FLOODED AREAS**

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

DOH recommends one of the following:

- 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 by your county or state health department: <http://www.myfloridaeh.com/water/privatewells.html>. 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 further information, contact the Florida Department of Health in Gulf County  
at 850-227-1276 x 125.

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**Florida Department of Health**

GULF COUNTY

2475 Garrison Ave., Port St. Joe, FL 32456, Phone: 850-227-1276, Fax: 850-227-1794  
807 W. Hwy 22, Wewahitchka, FL 32465, Phone: 850-639-2644, Fax: 850-639-2357

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