

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 21, 2007

To: Local Health Departments

RE: Water Sampling Flooded Areas

Once flood waters have receded, private water systems should be examined for any visible damage such as cracks or holes in water well casings or damaged cistern walls or lids. If there is visible damage, the homeowner should contact a professional water system contractor that is registered with ODH to arrange for repairs to the system. If individuals or local health departments need information regarding registered private water system contractors, they can contact our private water system contractor registration program at (614) 466-1390.

If the private water system does not appear to have any damage to the system, the homeowner should then have the water system disinfected and tested for potability prior to reuse. Disinfection procedures for water wells can be found in ODH's publication, Disinfection Fact Sheet for Flooded Wells. Disinfection of a cistern water system includes emptying the cistern of all water, cleaning all surfaces (walls floor, and inside lid) with a detergent solution, rinse, and then sanitizing the surfaces with a sanitizing solution of household bleach (5.25% chlorine).

Once private water systems have been properly cleaned and disinfected, they need to be tested for potability. Local health department officials may arrange to have water samples from flood affected areas analyzed through public or private laboratories at their own cost or by using the Ohio EPA Environmental Services Laboratory under contract with ODH. **If the local health department would like the water sample analysis fee waived, then the local health department must make a written request to the director of the Ohio Department of Health pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code 3701-49-01(B)(10) and 3701-28-21(C) and indicate that the request is due to a flood emergency. In order for the fee to be waived the water samples must be submitted to the Ohio EPA Lab at their *new address* at 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.** Such waiver requests must also include a statement as to the need for the waiver, an approximate number of samples to be analyzed, and the approximate dates that samples will be collected and sent to the laboratory. To facilitate the collection and analysis of these samples while the appropriate paperwork is being prepared, verbal contact should be made with Rebecca Fugitt or Russell Smith at (614) 466-1390 to provide them with the information as outlined above.

Kathy Haas of the Ohio EPA Lab must be notified by the local health districts at (614) 644-4243 prior to collection of the samples in order to schedule a sample delivery time and date, whether the samples are being delivered by the local health district or US Cargo. The water samples should be delivered at the OEPA loading dock behind the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Consumer Lab building. The Ohio EPA Environmental Services Laboratory prefers samples delivered directly by the collecting agency. If shipping is necessary, Ohio EPA will *only* accept water sample deliveries from US Cargo, due to Chain-of-Custody issues. US Cargo can be contacted at 1-800-282-3016. The LHD is responsible for getting the samples to the lab within the required 30 hour holding time.

Finally, in regard to emergency supplies of water that are being provided to citizens affected by the flooding (e.g. water buffaloes/tanks), local health department officials should be aware that such supplies need to be coming from public water supplies that are unaffected by the floods and that these supplies need to be maintaining a chlorine residual over time of a minimum of two tenths parts per million (ppm). Local health department staff should be checking these water supplies for the disinfection residuals for as long as these water supplies are being provided for the public's use.

Russell Smith, RS
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Bureau of Environmental Health