COLLECTING WATER SAMPLES
AFTER FLOODING FOR LAB ANALYSIS

If you have a private well and the well head was at any point submerged in flood waters, you must disinfect the well and test the well water before use. The Winnebago County Health Department strongly recommends contacting a Licensed Well contractor to assess the well and disinfect the well water. Wait to clean and test the well until the well head is no longer submerged.

1. If your well head has been submerged in flood waters, your well must be chlorinated. After chlorination, wait at least 10 days after all chlorine has been run out before taking a water sample for analysis.

2. Select a faucet closest to the well that has had no treatment (filters, softener, etc.), and has a single handle for the cold water. Remove the aerator, if present.

3. Sterilize the spout with a lighter, or wipe the spout with a clean cloth and laundry bleach.

4. Open the faucet and let the water run long enough for the well to cycle on and off (listen for switch kicking on and off); If this is not possible, let the water run for a minimum of three (3) minutes. Have additional cold water faucets running at the same time.

5. Use the sample bottle with the white label and the white powder inside for bacterial (coliform / E. coli) analysis. Do not rinse the white powder out.

6. It is important to submit an adequate sample volume. Fill the sample bottle between the 100 ml and 120 ml lines. If there is less than 100 ml, the sample will not be accepted. Do not fill over the 120 ml line. Regulations require one inch of space to shake and mix the water sample before testing.

7. Do not touch inside the bottle, or in the bottle cap. Only let water directly from the faucet into the bottle or bottle cap (Watch out for splashing). Water should be coming from the faucet at a steady stream, not full force.

8. Neatly fill out the label on bottle in ink with the sample address / location and sampling time.

9. DROP WATER SAMPLES OFF TO:
   The City of Rockford Environmental Health Laboratory
   1111 Cedar, Rockford, IL 61102

 NOTE: Data from any sample which does not meet the above criteria will be flagged clearly defining the nature and substance of the variation.

Last Updated: 04/01/2019