Ottawa Public Health
Santé publique

My well has been under or surrounded by floodwaters in the 2019 flood

YES

Do I suspect chemicals contaminants have impacted my well (e.g. solvents, petroleum products, etc.)

YES

Use an alternate source of water for any consumption (i.e. bottled water)
AND
call the Ontario Well Help Desk (613-521-3450) for advice and follow up on their recommendations.
AND
Consult a professional well contractor for assistance as needed: ontario.ca/page/find-licenced-well-contractors

NO

If you want to continue to use your well water, bring the water to a rolling boil for at least one minute and let it cool before using it for drinking, making infant formula, juices, ice or recipes, brushing your teeth, rinsing contact lenses, and washing food or dishes. Refrigerate your boiled water until it is used.
OR
Use bottled water

Disinfect your well once your well is no longer under or surrounded by floodwaters. See ottawapublichealth.ca/flooding for more information. You are encouraged to contact a professional well contractor for assistance as needed: ontario.ca/page/find-licenced-well-contractors

Wait two days before collecting a water sample. If your septic system is ready to use, you can use your well water for household tasks, but not for anything in which the water would be swallowed or get into the eyes or mouth.

NO

Test your water once for bacteriological safety as a precaution.
AND
Continue regular use and testing of water to ensure water is safe for consumption. Recommended that well water be tested three times per year (spring, summer and fall)

Take a sample of your well water. First water sample shows water is

SAFE TO DRINK | **NOT SAFE TO DRINK**

A second sample should be taken approximately one week after the first sample. The second water sample shows water is

SAFE TO DRINK | **NOT SAFE TO DRINK**

Take a third sample. It should be taken 2 to 4 weeks after the first sample. This will confirm the potability of your well water. The third water sample shows water is

SAFE TO DRINK | **NOT SAFE TO DRINK**

Continue regular use of your well and test your well water 3x per year (spring, summer, fall) to ensure water is safe for consumption.

2nd sample

Wait two days before collecting a water sample. If your septic system is ready to use, you can use your well water for household tasks, but not for anything in which the water would be swallowed or get into the eyes or mouth.

3rd sample

Disinfect your well.
AND
If you want to continue to use your well water, bring the water to a rolling boil for at least one minute and let it cool before using it for drinking, making infant formula, juices, ice or recipes, brushing your teeth, rinsing contact lenses, and washing food or dishes. Refrigerate your boiled water until it is used.

Disinfect your well.
AND
If you want to continue to use your well water, bring the water to a rolling boil for at least one minute and let it cool before using it for drinking, making infant formula, juices, ice or recipes, brushing your teeth, rinsing contact lenses, and washing food or dishes. Refrigerate your boiled water until it is used.

Consider treatment/disinfection system if three samples do not indicate your water is bacteriologically safe. See ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/private-wells.aspx You are encouraged to contact a professional well contractor for assistance as needed: ontario.ca/page/find-licenced-well-contractorstopics/private-wells.aspx for more details.