



COUNTY OF SAGINAW

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For Immediate Release

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Saginaw County Health Department

PRESS RELEASE

MESSAGE FROM THE SAGINAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department urges residents to be safe outdoors during and after flooding by staying away from puddles, rivers, and streams; Stay away from downed power lines; Stay away from stray or wild animals, and do not touch dead animals; Never use electrical equipment in wet areas; and do not let children go outdoors alone.

Residents should follow proper clean-up procedures for homes that have experienced flood water damage. All flood waters are considered contaminated and extreme caution should be considered during clean up. Please follow these tips to protect yourself and your family:

- Test private water well prior to drinking or bathing. SCHD Laboratory can test your water and provide collection bottles for sampling. Lab services can be reached by calling (989) 758-3825.
- Electrical hazards can be present if your home or basement is flooded or the water has just receded. Wait until all water has receded before attempting any restoration work and turn off the circuit breakers on any electrical outlets that may have been flooded.
- Wear disposable gloves and old shoes or rubber boots when working in affected areas.
- Minimize the risk for mold, remove any standing water, and dry indoor areas. Remove and discard anything that cannot be thoroughly dried. Move objects outdoors to dry.
- Walls and floors should be washed with soap and warm or hot water and disinfected by using an antibacterial disinfectant.
- Electrical appliances, upholstered furniture, carpeting, non-canned fruits and vegetables that have been flooded are not salvageable and must be discarded. Clothes, bedding and stuffed toys can be laundered.
- Discard wooden cutting boards, plastic utensils, baby bottle nipples and pacifiers.
- Thoroughly wash and sanitize all pans, dishes and utensils that came in contact with flood water.
- Throw away any food if there is a chance it came into contact with flood water, including cardboard juice and milk boxes, baby food and formula jars because they cannot be effectively cleaned and sanitized.

For further information, call the Health Department's Environmental Health Services Division at (989) 758-3686 or visit **Flood Safety** on the Hot Topics section of our homepage at www.saginawpublichealth.org. Be Wise. Be Well.

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