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Public Health Officer  
920-386-3674

### Heavy Rains May Lead to Poor Water Quality

Due to the heavy rains in Dodge County over the last week or so, the Dodge County Human Service and Health Department-Public Health Unit are advising residents with wells to be on the look out for changes in their drinking water. The large amounts of water may cause well water to be unsafe to use by allowing bacteria and/or parasites from the surrounding soil to enter the well.

If residents notice any changes in taste, odor, or appearance of their well water, DO NOT DRINK THE WATER. If you cannot use your well water, drink bottled water or water from a known, safe, source. **Whenever you notice a change in water quality, or anytime there's been flooding near your well, have your well tested for bacteria contamination.** Private well owners are responsible for the safety of their own water.

Water test kits can be obtained from the county Public Health Unit, the UW-Extension, and local well drilling businesses. For more information on how to test your well, and what to test for, contact Dodge County Human Service and Health Department (920) 386-3670, your local health department or go to the Department of Natural Resources web site at [www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/welltest.htm](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/welltest.htm).

Well owners should test their water at least once each year. Well water can be contaminated by bacteria, viruses, and parasites from human and animal waste that is found in soil, vegetation and in surface run off.