



## COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

### Commissioners

James R. Matthews

*Chairman*

Joseph M. Hoeffel    Bruce L. Castor, Jr.

Joseph M. DiMino, DO

*Director of Health/Medical Director*

---

---

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1430 DeKalb Street, PO Box 311

Norristown, PA 19404-0311

Phone: 610-278-5117    Fax: 610-278-5167

TDD: 610-631-1211

[www.health.montcopa.org](http://www.health.montcopa.org)

Contact: Rachel DeMarzio 610-278-5117

John Peffer    610-970-5040

For immediate release:

### **Flooded Private Water Supplies**

August 29, 2011 (Norristown, PA) Due to the recent heavy rains from Hurricane Irene affecting Montgomery County, properties located in low-lying areas or near surface waterways may become flooded. For those properties served by private water supplies, these wells may become covered by floodwater. This condition poses a public health hazard. Wells inundated by floodwater may be contaminated and should not be used until tested. For those affected by submerged private wells, the Montgomery County Health Department (MCHD) offers the following advice:

- 1.) Do not drink the water from your well. Consume only bottled water.
- 2.) Boil all water that you plan to use for consumption for 2 to 5 minutes. Allow the water to cool sufficiently before use to avoid scalding.
- 3.) Once floodwaters have receded, inspect your well to ensure that it has not been damaged. If there is damage, contact a well drilling contractor and continue to drink bottled water until the well is repaired.
- 4.) As a precautionary measure run the water from an outside garden hose spigot until the water is clear and free of mud and sediments. **Water should not be consumed until it is tested and/or shock chlorinated.**
- 5.) Conduct shock chlorination individually or contact a professional well driller or plumbing contractor and have your well disinfected by chlorination. The well must remain unused for 8 to 24 hours once shock chlorination is completed. Purge the water until the chlorine is out of the system. For those choosing to individually conduct shock chlorination treatment, fact sheets are available from the PA Department of

#### **NORRISTOWN HEALTH CENTER**

1430 DeKalb Street, PO Box 311

Norristown, PA 19404-0311

Phone: (610) 278-5145    Fax: (610) 278-5166

#### **POTTSTOWN HEALTH CENTER**

364 King Street

Pottstown, PA 19464

Phone: (610) 970-5040    Fax: (610) 970-5048

#### **EASTERN COURT HOUSE ANNEX**

102 York Road, Suite 401

Willow Grove, PA 19090

Phone: (215) 784-5415    Fax: (215) 784-5524

Environmental Protection (DEP) website or link through the MCHD website as listed below.

- 6.) Wait several days after chlorination and have the water tested for potability.

Please be advised MCHD's public health laboratory continues to offer free water testing for bacteria. Please contact the lab at 610-278-5117 for further information or access our county website at [www.health.montcopa.org](http://www.health.montcopa.org) or the DEP website at [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us).

In addition, floodwaters can create public health and safety hazards as well as property damage. For information regarding floodwater clean-up procedures and safety precautions, please access the above website or call MCHD at 610-278-5117 at our main office in Norristown or 610-970-5040 in our Pottstown Health Center.

#####

**NORRISTOWN HEALTH CENTER**

1430 DeKalb Street, PO Box 311  
Norristown, PA 19404-0311

Phone: (610) 278-5145 Fax: (610) 278-5166

**POTTSTOWN HEALTH CENTER**

364 King Street  
Pottstown, PA 19464

Phone: (610) 970-5040 Fax: (610) 970-5048

**EASTERN COURT HOUSE ANNEX**

102 York Road, Suite 401  
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Phone: (215) 784-5415 Fax: (215) 784-5524