

CARTERET COUNTY
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



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For immediate release:

**Carteret County Environmental Health Offers Free
Bacteriological Samples for Private Drinking Wells
September 22, 2018
10:30 AM**

Carteret County, NC – The Carteret County Environmental Health Department is advising residents with private drinking water wells that experienced flooding during Hurricane Florence to use bottled water until a sample has been tested. The Carteret County Environmental Health Department will offer free bacteriological samples for private drinking water wells that were flooded during Hurricane Florence. After flooding around the well has receded and power has been restored, please disinfect and chlorinate your well prior to requesting sampling. (Instructions attached)

Sampling can be requested beginning Monday, September 24, 2018 by contacting the Carteret County Environmental Health Department at 252-728-8499. Environmental Health staff will visit your property to collect a sample.

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DRINKING WATER WELL CHLORINATION INSTRUCTIONS – 4 Inch WELL

1. Determine location and depth of well. Determine pH level of water if possible. If the pH is higher than 7.5, it may be necessary to add ½ gallon of white vinegar to the well an hour before add chlorine solution.
2. Prepare disinfection solution by adding chlorine to a bucket partially filled with well water. If using household bleach (unscented, 5.25% sodium hypochlorite), mix according to chart listed below. If using hypochlorite tablets or pellets, mix according to the package directions. Calcium hypochlorite tablets are recommended; do not use chlorine tablets or pellets meant for swimming pool disinfection.
3. Turn off or bypass any well treatment equipment you may have on your water system. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for the disinfection of these parts.
4. Determine the best way to access the well point. In a properly constructed well, there should be an access on the well seal. If not, a plumbing junction will have to be taken apart. Make sure access is gained before the pump and any check valves.
5. Add chlorine mixture. Wash down the inside of the well and any components within the well. Allow chlorine solution to settle into the well for at least an hour.
6. Close the access ports, or reconnect any plumbing taken apart. Attach a hose to the nearest spigot and turn the water on. If possible, allow the water from the hose to re-enter the well through the access port. Re-circulate like this for at least 30 minutes or until the chlorine smell is evident.
7. Once the chlorinated water has pulled through the system, turn the spigot off and run water through the remaining spigots outside the home until chlorine is smelled. Repeat this process for spigots inside the home. Run water away from the house and plants.
8. Once chlorine is smelled in all spigots, turn the water off and allow it to stand in the plumbing for at least 24 hours. Do not run the water at this time (except for flushing toilets).
9. Once the 24 hour time is up, flush the system by running through an outside spigot until chlorine is no longer smelled. Then flush through the inside spigots. (don’t forget some chlorine may still be pulled through the washing machine, showers, and ice maker)
10. Once the chlorine has been flushed from the system, call Carteret County Environmental Health at 252-728-8499 to have your water re-sampled.

Depth of 4” Well	50ft	100ft	150ft	200ft	300ft
Bleach to Water	½ gallon	1 gallon	1 ½ gallon	2 gallons	3 gallons

DRINKING WATER WELL CHLORINATION INSTRUCTIONS – 2 Inch WELL

1. Determine location and depth of well. Determine pH level of water if possible. If the pH is higher than 7.5, it may be necessary to add ½ gallon of white vinegar to the well an hour before adding the chlorine solution.
2. Prepare disinfection solution by adding chlorine to a bucket partially filled with well water. If using household bleach (unscented, 5.25% sodium hypochlorite), mix according to chart listed below. If using hypochlorite tablets or pellets, mix according to the package directions. Calcium hypochlorite tablets are recommended; do not use chlorine tablets or pellets meant for swimming pool disinfection.
3. Turn off or bypass any well treatment equipment you may have on your water system. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for the disinfection of these parts.
4. Determine the best way to access the well point. A plumbing junction may have to be taken apart. Make sure access is gained before the pump or any check valve or packer.
5. Add chlorine mixture. Wash down the inside of the well and any components within the well. Allow chlorine solution to settle into the well for at least an hour.
6. Close the access port, or reconnect any plumbing that has been taken apart. Attach a hose to the nearest spigot and turn the water on. Run water until you smell the chlorine coming through the system. Run water away from the house and plants.
7. Once the chlorine is smelled, turn the spigot off and run water through the remaining spigots outside the home until chlorine is smelled. Turn these spigots off. Repeat this process for spigots inside the home.
8. Once the chlorine is smelled in all spigots, turn the water off and allow it to stand in the plumbing for at least 24 hours. Do not run the water at this time (except for flushing toilets).
9. Once the 24 hour time is up, flush the system by running through an outside spigot until chlorine is no longer smelled. Then flush through the inside spigots. (don’t forget some chlorine may still be pulled through the washing machine, showers, and ice maker)
10. Once the chlorine has been flushed from the system, call Carteret County Environmental Health at 252-728-8499 to have your water re-sampled.

Depth of 2” Well	50ft	100ft	150ft	200ft	300ft
Bleach to water	4 cups	½ gallon	¾ gallons	1 gallon	1 ½ gallons