



# After the flood

# Range of impacted wells

- Completely submerged
- Visible but within pooled backyard
- Taste and/or odor have changed

# Immediate advice

**Be safe versus sorry.**

**Refrain from using water for drinking, tooth brushing, produce washing, preparation of food, juice, baby formula or ice cubes.**

**Acquire bottled water or water from a “known safe source”.**

**OR heat water to a rolling boil: 1 minute will inactivate microorganisms**

# When can I use my tap water again?

- 1. When the water has receded
- 2. After the well has been disinfected
- 3. After the bleach has worn completely off
- 4. After the well has been tested
- 5. Results show no presence of bacteria

# Shock Chlorinating a well

Gear:

Bleach

Gloves

Safety Glasses

Clean bucket



# Procedure

- 1. Unbolt cap (drilled) or remove cover (dug)
- 2. Add bleach: 1 gallon = 10 feet depth (dug)  
1 gallon = 350 feet depth (drilled)
- 3. Allow disinfectant water to fill entire system.
- 4. Keep chlorine in system for 12 hours
- 5. Discharge chlorinated water through hose.

# Special circumstances

- Recirculation hose
- Water treatment
- Dewatering well



# Testing for bacteria

- ❑ Wait until **no** chlorine odor (3-5 days average).
- ❑ Acquire a test kit (FREE for THOs assisting with flood response)
- ❑ Wait for results before using for drinking.



# Results

## Absence of Coliform Bacteria



## Presence of Coliform Bacteria

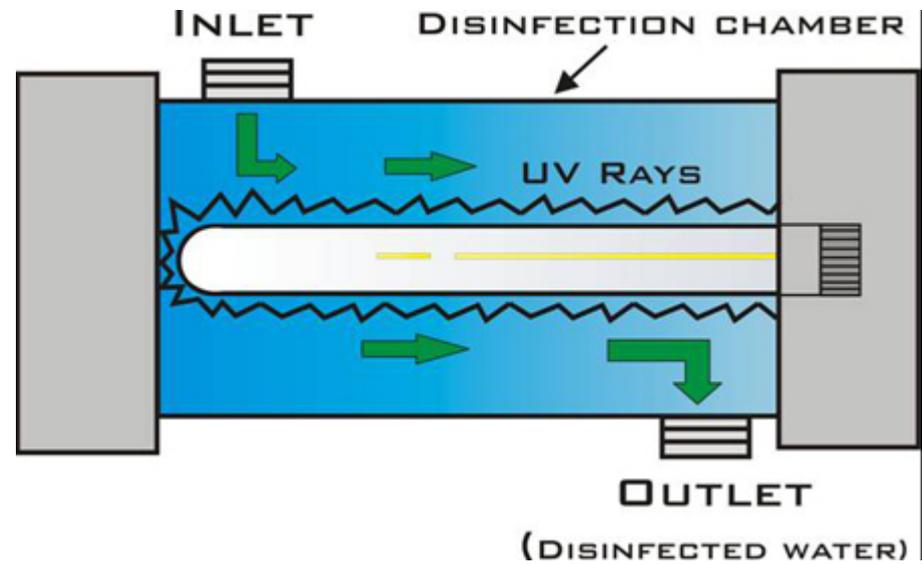


# IF results are positive

## OPTIONS

Re-shock

Consider installation of  
water treatment





## The goal

1-800-660-9997 Laboratory

1-800-439-8550 technical assistance; press "5" for drinking water

1-802-863-7233 Gail Center, Senior Environmental Health Engineer

Vermont Department of Health