



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Commissioner's Office

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IMPORTANT JULY 2017 FLOODING INFORMATION

TO: Local Health Departments
FROM: Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP
Commissioner and State Health Officer
DATE: JULY 29, 2017
RE: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health is informing all Local Health Departments (LHDs) of important health information as a result of the July 2017 flooding occurring in the state.

Boil Water Advisories are common during flood events.

Residents in the northern part of the state who are experiencing significant flooding or power outages may be under a Boil Water Advisory at some point.

A Boil Water Advisory is issued when water service is interrupted. Areas that are impacted in one of those areas and have no water, low water pressure, or cloudy water will need to properly disinfect their water before consuming.

Residents who reside in an area under a local Boil Water Advisory and unable to boil their water should disinfect their water using household bleach in the following manner:

Add eight drops or one-eighth teaspoon of regular unscented household laundry bleach (5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite) to each gallon of clear water. Stir and allow the water to stand for at least 30 minutes before using. Water should have a distinct taste or smell of chlorine. If chlorine taste or smell is not present, add eight more drops or one-eighth teaspoon of bleach and allow to stand for 15 minutes more before using. Boiling water for one minute is preferred over using bleach.

As Boil Water Advisories are issued by local water systems, they will be posted online at www.wvdhhr.org/oehs.