Joint Information Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State of Louisiana News Desk #: 225.358.5361

BATON ROUGE -- The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals advises Louisiana residents in the parishes affected by Hurricane Isaac who use private wells for their drinking water systems to take water safety precautions if their wells flooded during the storm.

The well owners are responsible for testing and monitoring their water. If a homeowner's water well was flooded during Hurricane Isaac, the well owner should disinfect the well using a chlorine bleach solution following recommended Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. The owner should then wait 24 hours before testing the water for contamination.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals advises Louisiana residents to take the following precautions:

- If a private well was flooded, disinfect the well using a chlorine bleach solution following the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. After disinfecting, wait 24 hours before testing for contamination.
- If the well is contaminated or if the water is not safe, get a temporary source of clean drinking water.
- If the well is not contaminated or the water is safe, the well owner should test the water for contamination. If the well is still not contaminated, the owner may use the water for non-potable purposes such as washing, but should not drink it.
- If the well is still contaminated, the well owner should get a temporary source of clean drinking water and get help from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

For more information, please contact the Joint Information Center at 225.358.5361.

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