

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



**STEVEN BELLONE**  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

**JAMES L. TOMARKEN, MD, MPH, MBA, MSW**  
Commissioner

## **ADVISORY FOR PRIVATE WATER WELLS**

### **Advisory for Homes Served with Private Water Wells Affected by Floodwaters As a Result of Hurricane Sandy**

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) is advising homeowners who are served with individual private wells affected by floodwaters to have their drinking water tested as soon as practical. The department is concerned these private supplies may have been adversely impacted by bacteria or other contaminants. Evidence of potential well impacts would include flooding of the well, visible evidence of pollutants in the vicinity of the well or notable changes in water quality such as color and odor.

Residents who believe their wells could have been impacted by the floodwaters should not use their wells for any purpose, and instead use New York State certified bottled water or an acceptable alternative water source, until they have their well tested by a New York State approved commercial laboratory. A list of approved local laboratories is attached. At a minimum, the water should be tested for bacteriological contaminants (total coliform and E.Coli), and inorganic compounds (e.g. nitrates, nitrites, chlorides). Additional testing may be required depending upon site specific conditions (e.g. stored solvents, pesticides, gas cans, etc.).

Prior to having their water tested, homeowners are advised to have their wells assessed, repaired (if necessary), and disinfected by a licensed well driller or other competent professional. As per the New York State Department of Health, if fuel oil contamination is suspected (e.g. notable petroleum odor or evidence of petroleum product in close proximity to the well) then an analysis for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) should initially be performed to rule out potential impacts prior to disinfection and sampling. This analysis is also suggested for private wells in communities which were flooded and are known to have been heavily impacted by fuel spills. If residents are in doubt they should seek advice from a qualified professional. In addition, if you believe your well may be contaminated by petroleum, please report this to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Spill Hotline at 1-800-457-7362.

Potentially impacted wells should also be resampled within one year or more frequently if there are notable changes in water quality such as color and odor. If you believe your well was not affected by floodwaters, the SCDHS still recommends that homeowners have their drinking water tested once each year.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

◆ OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES ◆  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ~ 360 YAPHANK AVENUE, SUITE 1C ~ YAPHANK, NY 11980  
PHONE: (631) 852.5810 - FAX: (631) 852.5787

Additional resources may be found at the Suffolk County's emergency response website, at: [scoem.suffolkcountyny.gov/oem/beinformed/recoveringfromadisaster/keepfoodandwatersafe](http://scoem.suffolkcountyny.gov/oem/beinformed/recoveringfromadisaster/keepfoodandwatersafe)  
If you have any questions, please call SCDHS (631) 852-5810 or 852-5789.

***NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
APPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES FOR DRINKING WATER IN  
SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK***

**American Analytical Laboratories - 56 Toledo Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735 Telephone:  
631-454-6100**

**Environmental Testing Labs, Inc. - 208 Route 109, Farmingdale, NY 11735 Telephone:  
631-249-3150**

**H2M Labs, Inc. 575 Broadhollow Road - Melville, NY 11747 Telephone:  
631-694-3040**

**Long Island Analytical Laboratory - 101-4 Colin Drive, Holbrook, NY 11741 Telephone:  
631-472-3400**

The above is based on information obtained from the Environmental Approval Program of the New York State Department of Health. It is complete and correct to the best knowledge of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

This information is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services is implied.