



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

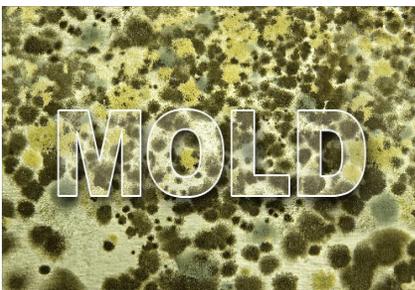
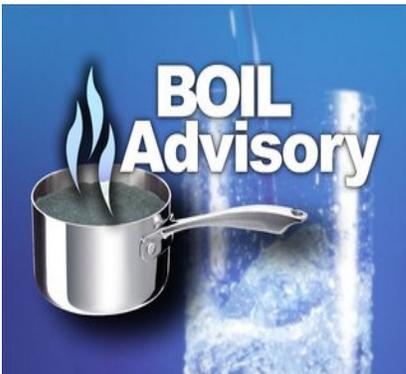
Health Risks After a Flood

Oneida County Health Department

July 2013

Communicable Disease Report and Health and Safety Tips

FLOOD OF 2013



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ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

The recent heavy rains and flooding in the Mohawk Valley have not only caused significant devastation, but pose a risk to the health and safety of the residents of the areas affected. Water system breaks and flooding of waste treatment centers have the potential of contaminating the water supply, and an increased risk for water-borne diseases. Residents in affected areas are notified immediately of appropriate actions to take to mitigate adverse outcomes.

Immediate safety concerns of wounds and exposure to contaminated flood waters have prompted OCHD to offer **free Tdap vaccine** in a number of clinics around the county. All vaccines given in these clinics will be entered into NYSIIS for providers to access as needed. **Tetanus containing vaccine should be given if the patient has not had Td or Tdap in the last 5 years if they are involved in flooding cleanup.**

Cleanup activities have the potential for exposure to mold. Standing water and heavy rains bring on an increase in the mosquito population with concurrent risk of vector-borne diseases. Power outages pose a risk for food contamination. **Prevention messages are available to the public via :**

<http://www.ocgov.net/health/flooding>

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/health-tips-after-storm>

RISKS POSED BY CONTAMINATED WATER

After flooding, private well owners should take actions to ensure their private water supply is safe for consumption. When a water supply well has been affected by flood waters, the water within the well may be contaminated with water-borne pathogens that can cause serious illness in humans and pets. If individuals believe that their well has been contaminated, they must discontinue using the well water for drinking and cooking purposes, and use only disinfected or bottled water. Once the well has been disinfected, it must be tested prior to use.

Local labs that test water in private wells:

Mohawk Valley Water Authority– 792-0301

Verona Labs– 363-5841

WATER-BORNE and VECTOR-BORNE ILLNESS

There is an increased risk of infection of water-borne diseases contracted through direct contact with polluted waters, such as wound infections, dermatitis, conjunctivitis, and ear, nose and throat infections. If your patients who have listed flooded homes and cleanup activities in their history present with mild or severe diarrhea, abdominal cramps, fever, and vomiting, you may wish to keep the following water borne diseases in your differential diagnoses:

Campylobacter

Salmonellosis

Cryptosporidiosis

Giardia

E. Coli infections

If these reportable diseases occur, the Oneida County Health Department will contact you and your patient for follow up investigation.

Floods may indirectly lead to an increase in vector-borne diseases through the expansion in the number of vector habitats.

Mosquito-borne (arboviral) illnesses: **West Nile Virus** **Eastern Equine Encephalitis**

- o During the mosquito season, health care providers should consider arboviral infections in the differential diagnosis of any adult or pediatric patient with clinical evidence of viral encephalitis or viral meningitis.
- o All cases of suspected viral encephalitis and/or viral meningitis should be reported immediately to the local health department (LHD). (See addendum)
- o Wadsworth Center, the NYSDOH public health laboratory, provides testing for a number of domestic, exotic, common and rare viruses. The tests performed will depend on the clinical characteristics and status of the patient. Health care providers should contact the LHD of the patient's county of residence prior to submission of specimens.

ONEIDA COUNTY COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE- May-Jun 2013

	<u>May-Jun</u>	<u>YTD</u>		<u>May-Jun</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Tuberculosis-	1	5	Pertussis	3	9
Giardia-	6	23	*Influenza A	0	93
Rabies Exposure	10	19	*Influenza B	24	115
Chlamydia		245	Salmonella	3	10
Campylobacter	5	7	Cryptosporidiosis	2	5
Lyme (confirmed)	8	11			
Bacterial Meningitis	0	1			

* Influenza data reflects confirmed cases from October 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013