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**To:** Phillips, Katherine A. PHILLIKA@dhec.sc.gov  
**Date:** 10/29/2015 5:38:21 PM  
**Subject:** DHEC follow to the Special Senate Committee Regarding Flood Relief Efforts in SC

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Members of the Special Senate Committee Regarding Flood Relief Efforts in SC:

To follow up with Senator Leatherman's inquiry as to whether the well sampling process may be expedited, please find below a more detailed explanation of the well sampling process and the reasons for the 7 – 10 day disinfection period.

Many private wells have been impacted by flood waters and these wells should be disinfected and then tested for coliform bacteria. It is important to note that if the well was not flooded the water quality is the same as it was before this flood event. Once the standing water dries up around the well head, the well should be disinfected. This process includes using bleach to disinfect the well system and associated piping. The 7 – 10 day waiting period provides sufficient time for the chlorine to flush from the system and provides sufficient time for any remaining bacteria in the well to re-grow before the well water is sampled. After the 7 – 10 day waiting period, the well water should be sampled for coliform bacteria. Well samples should be delivered to a DHEC drop off location the same day it is collected because the sample must be analyzed within 30 hours of sample collection. Generally, the DHEC lab begins sampling the well water the day it is received. Sample results are read by the DHEC lab 18 – 24 hours after the testing begins and DHEC calls the well owner with the sampling results the very same day.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can assist you or your constituents.

Thanks,  
Katie

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