



# STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

## NEWS RELEASE

[www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)

Ted Strickland, Governor

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **STATE AGENCIES ISSUE WATER SAFETY TIPS FOR AFFECTED FLOOD AREAS**

**COLUMBUS** – The State of Ohio’s Emergency Management Agency, Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency notifies all Ohioans who are affected by the flood and flash flood warning to follow any recommendations made by their local health departments on water boil alerts.

Flood waters can be extremely dangerous and during a flood, organisms that cause illness in people may have entered the water supply. Your local health department will issue a boil alert if necessary, however if you are unsure if your drinking water is safe, follow the following steps before drinking the water.

- Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for at least one minute and let it cool before using **or use bottled water**.
- Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes and food preparation until further notice.
- Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

Microbes in bacteriologically-contaminated water can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms. If you experience one or more of these symptoms and they persist, contact your doctor. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants and some elderly people may be at increased risk.

People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water in general from their health care providers.

The State of Ohio has no evidence at this time that the water system is contaminated but is issuing this advisory as a precaution.

Visit <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/alerts/alerts.aspx> for additional information about water safety.

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