

# *Vernon County Health Department*

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Public Health  
Protect. Promote. Prevent.

**TO: Vernon County Residents**  
**FROM: Beth Johnson, RN, BSN**  
**Director/Health Officer**  
**DATE: September 27, 2016**

Vernon County Health Department would like to offer information concerning the clean-up and issues that will follow after the recent heavy rains and flooding that may have caused damage to your residence.

Some of the problems you may encounter could be attributed to mold, mosquitoes, well water and/or sewage.

- **Mold.** We are providing information as to how to deal with mold and the solutions you can use to get rid of it. Remember to take out the wet carpeting and any other materials that are wet and can't be dried as a first step in reducing the chance of mold. There **may** be dumpsters available at the Township Recycling Centers as well as the municipalities so you can dispose of the materials as soon as they are removed. Be sure you check with the Town and/or municipal officials. Clean-up kits are also available upon request.
- **Mosquitoes.** Mosquitoes will be hatching quickly now with the recent flood waters. Remember to pick up any container that holds water, as they become breeding grounds for the mosquitos that can cause LaCrosse Encephalitis or West Nile Virus. Remember to wear long pants and long sleeve shirts, socks and use an insect repellent containing DEET. Do not use insect repellent on the skin of a child under 6 years of age. Apply only to their clothing.
- **Well Water.** Your well may have been contaminated by the recent rains/flood waters. Be sure to test the water before using it for drinking, bathing, washing. It is a good idea to disinfect the well first before testing if the well was submerged in contaminated water. The water test kits are available at several different sites throughout Vernon County such as fire stations, village halls and of course the Health Department. The testing is **FREE** from the WI State Laboratory of Hygiene. Follow the directions in the kit and mail it to the Laboratory but be sure it does not reach the laboratory so it sits for more than 48 hours before it can be tested. The best time to mail is Monday – Wednesday.

- **Sewage.** If sewage has backed up into your basement, the area **MUST** be disinfected with a bleach solution.
- **Tetanus.** Be sure your tetanus immunization is up-to-date. If you are unsure of your tetanus protection, check with your medical provider or the Health Department. Immunization for tetanus can be obtained at the Health Department.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Health Department at 608-637-5251 or [www.health@vernoncounty.org](mailto:www.health@vernoncounty.org)

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