Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/36383817/

Downloaded on Nov 15, 2026

Flood Causes Disease Threats

Contaminated Wells Pose Health Hazard

The Guadalupe River's rise Friday — reaching 100-year flood levels in some areas of Kerr County — has created the possibility of water-borne diseases after flood waters recede, said an Upper Guadalupe River Authority official.

Typhoid fever, paratyphoid, dysentery and other water-borne diseases can be transmitted by contaminated water wells, said Lane Wolters, director of UGRA's environmental health services department.

Both deep and shallow wells covered by flood waters should be disinfected with chlorine and samples should be checked for the presence of bacteria before they can be considered safe sources of potable water, Wolters said.

County residents who take water directly from the river, creeks or shallow wells near the river should use bottled water or water from an approved source until a sample report indicates the water is safe for drinking, cooking and other household uses.

Following the flood of 1978, at least two cases of paratyphoid fever and many cases of gastrointestinal illness were directly blamed on contaminated water wells in Kerr County, Wolters said.

Wells can be disinfected with household bleach or Chlorox that has at least a 5 percent concentration of chlorine.

As a public service, the UGRA Environmental Health Services will provide water sample test kits and laboratory analysis, including information on chlorine disinfection to homeowners — with wells covered by floodwaters — at no charge throughout July.

Water test kits can be obtained at 213 W. Water Street in the Midtown Plaza Shopping Center. For more information please call 896-5101.

Clipped By:
mikaela692
Nov 10, 2026

Copyright © 2026 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.