



Public Health Advisory
**Vigilance for Increase in Illness Associated with
Flooding**
July 23, 2015

Situation:

Residents in Laughlin, NV were advised to boil their tap water before use for drinking or in food preparation after flooding washed dirt and mud into the local water supply. The order was issued on Saturday 7/18/15 and lifted on Tuesday 7/21/15. The potential health risks include skin infections and gastrointestinal (GI) illnesses. Possible waterborne diseases include: bacterial infections such as *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, shigellosis or listeriosis, viral infections like Hepatitis A, and protozoan infections like giardiasis and cryptosporidiosis. Direct contact with contaminated flood waters can lead to dermatitis, wound infections, conjunctivitis, and ear, nose, and throat infections.

For Clinicians:

- ✓ Please consider waterborne illness when examining patients with GI symptoms.

For Schools/Daycares:

- ✓ Be vigilant for any clusters or increase of GI illness in attendees.

For the next two weeks please remain vigilant for any increase in illnesses associated with contaminated water. Please call the SNHD Office of Disease Surveillance with questions or to report increase in illness or clusters of illness. 702-759-1300 option 2.

Educational resources:

- ✓ OSHA, Flood Cleanup Fact Sheet,
<https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data/HurricaneFacts/Bulletin2.pdf>
- ✓ CDC, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Floods.
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/>. 2013
- ✓ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Floods.
<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/floods.html>. 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Joseph P. Iser'.

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Chief Health Officer
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Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention
Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action
Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action
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