



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Protect Your Health in Potential Flood
Well Water Contamination, MDH Fact Sheets**

March 24, 2009 – Foley, MN - According to the National Weather Service (www.weather.gov), Benton County is included in the flood warning that continues for the Mississippi River in the St. Cloud Area. This forecast is based on the heavy rainfall received across the area both Sunday night and early Monday as well as the second wave of rain that came through Monday evening. Some scattered showers are expected Tuesday also. There have been reports that some creeks are running high, and there is water covering some roads.

As with any potential disaster or emergency there are some health risks associated. The first is contamination of private water wells. Coming into contact with flood water shouldn't pose an infectious disease risk, but ingesting it could. City water sources are unlikely to be contaminated. Take the necessary precautions if you suspect your well has been contaminated.

Protect yourself first. Ensure your family communication and evacuation plans are up to date. Pack your go-kit in case you need to evacuate your home. Check your bottled water supply. Consider moving valuables to the top floor of your home, or out of the way. Check in on your neighbors and if you have friends and family in the more immediate flood zone (including the Red River Valley area), assist them in any way you can.

For more information on protecting your health in a flood and your private water wells visit the Minnesota Department of Health page dedicated to Floods: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/floods>.

If you have any general flood concerns, please contact your city or county Emergency Manager.