



## **BOIL WATER NOTICE**

### *TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE INFORMATION SHEET*

Due to flooding and damage caused by Hurricane Matthew, the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County is advising individuals under a boil water notice - mainly those with flooded water wells, to take precautions against contaminated water. If your well has been covered with flood water, your water may contain disease-causing organisms and may not be safe to drink.

The Department recommends one of the following:

- Boil water before use, holding it at rolling boil for at least one minute before using it for drinking, cooking, making ice, brushing teeth, or washing dishes.
- Disinfect water by adding 8 drops (about 1/8 tsp – this would form a puddle about the size of a dime) of plain unscented household bleach (4 to 6% strength) per gallon of water, and then let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the procedure once. If high strength bleach is used (8.25% strength), add 7 drops.
- Use a container that has a cap or cover for disinfecting and storing water to be used for drinking. This will prevent contamination; or
- Use bottled water, especially for mixing baby formula.

After the flooding subsides:

- Disinfect your well using the procedures available from your county health department or provided on the Florida Department of Health Private Well Testing webpage, <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/private-well-testing/index.html>.
- Have your water tested by your county health department or by a laboratory certified by the State of Florida to perform a drinking water analysis for coliform bacteria.

For further information, please contact your local county health department or visit [www.floridahealth.gov](http://www.floridahealth.gov) or [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org).