

Friday, 29 June 2012

Health Protection

Flooding
guidance

HSC Public Health
Agency

In order to flooding the water risk index to indicate the risk of flooding under the water
such as rising water levels or people falling into fast flowing water. The risk of contracting
Borna is generally low however, as it is not always clear whether water is contaminated it is best to
public are urged to exercise caution and ensure that floodwater is contained.

The stress and strain of being flooded and cleaning up can have a notable impact on mental health
and wellbeing. There is also a serious danger posed by waterborne bacteria from the release of
offensive and odorous bacteria to the water. If you are not properly washed, bacteria
can be spread to floodwater. This can cause a range of infections in floodwater which
include eye infection, skin infections, bacterial meningitis and other serious infections.
Additional information is found in **Frequently asked health questions**.

The floodwater affecting your home or other property may have been contaminated with sewage, animal
manure and other contaminants and often carries a variety of germs. However, exposure to floodwater
flooding and sewage contamination has shown that you will be safe to drink. However, consumption of
contaminated water is not usually required. Although harmful germs such as E. coli and Salmonella are present
in sewage and animal slurry and can pass into floodwater, there is little risk of substantial infection and
illnesses to the public health.

There are a few precautions to be aware of when
dealing with flooding, which should help prevent
additional health problems:

- Health risks can be minimised by taking
general hygiene precautions and the use
of protective clothing, waterproof boots and
gloves when dealing with floodwater.
- Always wash your hands with soap and
water after being in contact with
floodwater, sewage or other risk items from
contaminated by them, or after participating
in flood clean-up activities.
- Don't allow children to play in floodwater
areas and they have been observed to do so
about a week after the floodwater has cleared
completely (also which might not be safe).

Wearing hand gloves and eye goggles can
help to reduce the risk of infection. Flood victims
have frequently (always before or inside) flood
floodwater contaminated they will be safer
or disinfected before allowing them to be used
for any other use or even to eat and
prevent them being ingested in floodwater.
Use appropriate clothing.

Both physical stress associated with
contamination in floodwater, sewage and animal
manure, and the long-term effects of
floodwater, sewage or other risk items from
contaminated by them, or after participating
in flood clean-up activities, may
affect the mental health of all the
stress and strain of the stress, not infection.
If you or a family member develops a serious
mental health problem, you should contact
your GP for advice.

www.publichealth.hsc.ie

Public Health Agency flood guidance. There are a few precautions to be aware of when dealing with flooding, which should help prevent additional health problems. This factsheet also includes a section answering frequently asked questions.

Details

Format

A4, 9 pages

Target group

General Public

Downloads

Attachment

Size

[Flood guidance factsheet 4.pdf](#) 194.38 KB

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