

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 supply. 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, contamination in
publications is not usually reported. Although harmful germs such as E. coli and S. typhi may be present
in sewage and animal slurry and can pass into floodwater, there is little to be substantial infection and
illnesses the risk to health is low.

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 cleaning up.
- Always wash your hands with soap and
water after being in contact with
floodwater, sewage or other risk items that
have been contaminated by them, or after participating
in flood clean-up activities.
- Don't allow children to play in floodwater
areas until they have been checked up on by
a GP about a week after the floodwater has cleared
completely (also check weight and height)

Wearing hand gloves and eye goggles can
help to reduce the risk of infection. Flood victims
have frequently (often before) used. Wash
floodwater contaminated toys with hot water
or disinfect before allowing them to be used
again. Any open cuts or sores should be
protected from being exposed to floodwater.
Use waterproof clothing.

Both physical stress associated with
contamination in floodwater, sewage and animal
manure, and the psychological stress they
cause, can be reduced by taking precautions to
minimise your contact with floodwater, sewage
and animal manure. If you are not sure of the
status and safety of the water, get infection.
If you are in a floodwater area, it is best to
avoid swimming, fishing, or other water-based
activities. If you are in a floodwater area, it is
best to avoid swimming, fishing, or other water-based
activities.

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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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