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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 23, 2018

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**Kent County Health Department Issues No Contact Advisory for All Flood Water**

**GRAND RAPIDS** - The Kent County Health Department has issued a **no-contact advisory** for the Grand River until further notice.

“Flood waters can carry bacteria and runoff from fields and parking lots,” said Adam London, Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. “As a result, the contaminants found in flood water often contain feces from farm animals and wildlife as well as toxic chemicals like gasoline or oil.”

In addition to the no contact advisory, London suggests staying away from creeks and rivers until flooding recedes. “Right now, water is continuing to rise. Walking near these locations can become dangerous in a matter of minutes. We also advise against recreational use of rivers, such as kayaking,” London added.

The flooding could also have a significant impact on homeowners with septic systems or well water. If you have a well head that is submerged in flood waters, do not use water for potable use, such as cooking, drinking, and brushing your teeth. Once the water recedes, have it tested for contamination by a licensed well contractor before allowing potable use again. The health department is asking all residents, regardless of water and sewer type, to use water conservatively.

Flood waters that have entered a home can have the same hazards. Any room that has been flooded should be disinfected with a bleach solution. Throw away any food (including pet food) that came into contact with flood water.

More information about flood safety <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/index.html>.

Kent County residents can get flooding updates at <http://www.accesskent.com/News/flood>.

Kent County Road Commission lists road closings here [www.kentcountyroads.net/news/entry/flooding-information](http://www.kentcountyroads.net/news/entry/flooding-information).

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

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