

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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## **“Contaminated Private Wells”**

The City of Norfolk water department staff assure that the water they provide to Norfolk citizens is completely safe for drinking and has at no time been compromised by the flood waters. Those who have private wells may not have that same reassurance.

John Kouba, health official with the City of Norfolk, recommends that people with private wells take every precaution in making sure their well water is safe for drinking.

“If you suspect anything, you should boil the water until it’s tested. You should immediately stop using the water if it has changed in color in any way or has taken on an unusual odor. There is the possibility that the river water has contaminated your well,” Kouba said.

Test kits for home owners to use to see if there is any bacteria in their well water can be obtained at the Madison County Extension Office located in the Lifelong Learning Center at 601 East Benjamin Avenue. Skip Quady, Environmental Health Specialist with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, said that they also have water test kits available at their offices at 304 North 5th Street, Suite C in Norfolk. Their number is 402-370-3496. The Nebraska office in Lincoln also mails kits out. Their number is 402-471-3935. The charge varies but is about \$11 to have the water tested. Instructions on how to obtain samples of the water and get them tested are included in the kit.