



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

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Laboratory of Public Health

Memo

To: Local Health Departments
From: Scott M. Shone, PhD, HCLD(ABB), Laboratory Director
Date: August 9, 2024
Re: Tropical Storm Debby Response – Well Water Testing

In response to the flooding associated with Tropical Storm Debby, the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) will provide well water sampling kits at no charge to Local Health Departments impacted by the storm. These kits are to be used solely for determining the presence of coliform bacteria and *E. coli* in existing private drinking water wells following disinfection.

“Storm Response” sample collection kits will include a sample collection bottle and laboratory requisition form that are each uniquely labeled to indicate the testing requested is for recovered potable wells. These kits are **NOT** to be used for routine well water certification analyses.

The free post-storm sampling kits can be ordered from the NCSLPH [Supply Ordering Portal](#) by selecting “STORM RESPONSE WELL WATER MICROBIOLOGY TOTAL COLIFORM/E.COLI P/A.”

Sample Collection and Shipping Guidelines

Post-flood well water samples should only be collected following performance of the recovery steps described in the Department’s [How to Keep Wells Safe Before and After Flood](#) guidance. Well water samples for coliform testing may be collected and shipped to the laboratory by state courier, FedEx or UPS. Laboratory testing must begin within 30 hours of collection time, so please plan shipments accordingly. Samples should be collected and shipped Monday through Wednesday.

If you have questions, please contact Chris Goforth, Environmental Sciences Laboratory Unit Manager, at chris.goforth@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-733-7308.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH • STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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