


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: December 11, 2024
Re: Hurricane Helene Response – Well Water Testing Updated Schedule

In response to the flooding associated with Hurricane Helene, the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) provided bacteriological well water testing on samples collected Monday through Friday each week. Due to the low volume of samples received at the NCSLPH on Fridays and Saturdays, the laboratory will return to standard well water testing operations. **Starting December 16, 2024**, NCSLPH will only test well water samples collected Monday through Wednesday and received by the laboratory no later than Thursday each week. Bacteriological well water testing must be initiated within 30 hours of collection; therefore, samples received on Friday and Saturday at the NCSLPH will be rejected.

As a reminder:

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 bacteriological 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.

For additional disaster recover information, please visit the [Department's Disaster Recovery website](#). If you have questions or other well water testing needs, please contact NCSLPH Customer Service at 919-733-3937.

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