What to Do in a Flood if You Have a Well or Septic System

If you get water from an individual well:
Do not use tap water for:
• Drinking.
• Brushing teeth.

If you have a septic system:
Do not pump the septic tank. Pumping the tank could cause it to break, float or damage inlet and outlet pipes.

Use bottled water or boil well water for three to five minutes.

If you can’t boil or buy water, mix household bleach with water.
• If the water is clear, use 8 drops per gallon of water.
• If the water is cloudy, use 16 drops per gallon of water.
• After adding the bleach to the water, wait 30 minutes to use.

After the flood:
Flush and chlorinate your well. Use a certified laboratory to test your water for bacteria.