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DOH-Monroe Urges Residents to Follow Flood Safety Tips

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Monroe County, Fla. — The Florida Department of Health in Monroe County (DOH-Monroe) urges residents to be aware of the health risks associated with flooding. Skin contact with flood waters does not, by itself, pose a serious health risk. However, health hazards are a concern when waters are or become contaminated with bacteria or contain dangerous debris.

DOH-Monroe recommends the following to prevent illness or injury from flood waters:
- Basic hygiene is critical. If you are under a boil water notice, use commercially bottled water for mixing baby formula. Wash your hands with soap and either disinfected or boiled and cooled water, especially before preparing or eating food, after toilet use, after handling a soiled diaper, after participating in flood cleanup activities, and after handling objects contaminated with flood water or sewage.
- Avoid eating for drinking anything that has been contaminated with flood waters.
- Avoid contact with flood waters, especially if you have open cuts or sores.
- Avoiding flood water is important not only for vehicles but for pedestrians as well.
- Flood water can be unpredictable. Staying away from all flooded areas and bridges over fast-moving water is the easiest way to keep safe. It is recommended to turn around to prevent risk of drowning.
- If you have any open cuts or sores and come in contact with flood waters, wash the area well with soap to prevent infection. If a wound develops redness, swelling, or drainage, seek immediate medical attention.
- Residents who sustain lacerations and/or puncture wounds are encouraged to contact their primary health care provider to make sure they are current on their tetanus vaccine and possibly get a booster.

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