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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Date of disinfection: \_\_\_\_\_

### Well Disinfection Procedure Checklist

For disinfection of well after a positive bacteria sample or after well pump replacement or significant plumbing repairs/projects

- Determine depth of standing water (Review Health Department records if available) - \_\_\_\_\_ ft.
- Purchase household (5-10%) liquid bleach (see chart on reverse side) and calcium hypochlorite (pool shock) tablets or granules (*not slow release*)
- If electric water heater, turn off at circuit breaker. If gas, turn to pilot. This allows the bleach to work.
- Remove well cap – verify integrity of gasket, screen, conduit
- Pour two (2) ounces by weight of calcium hypochlorite (pool shock) tablets or granules into well
- Mix appropriate amount of household (5-10%) liquid bleach (see chart on reverse side) with an equal amount of water (increase amount of liquid bleach by 50% if shock tablets or granules are not available)  
**Amount of bleach:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Pour chlorine/water mixture into well coating inside of well. “Chase” it with a bucket of fresh water
- Wait 30 minutes – **Start time:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Run water at an outside tap until there is a chlorine smell – this could vary widely based on well depth and other factors
- Bypassing any charcoal or reverse osmosis devices, run all faucets (hot, cold, outside), one at a time until chlorine smell is detected
- Flush all toilets
- Drain a small amount of water from the bottom of the hot water heater and the pressure tank
- Cycle any appliance connected to the water supply (ice maker, dishwasher, humidifier,...) to get chlorinated water inside the unit. Consult with a plumber or other water service technician before disinfecting water treatment equipment
- Attach garden hose to outside tap and rinse inside of well casing with chlorinated water for no more than one minute – stop if water becomes cloudy
- Replace well cap securely – Correct any deficiencies
- Allow water to remain in plumbing for at least 12 hours – toilets may be flushed
- Run water off intermittently (generally alternating ½ hour on and ½ hour off except for very low yield wells) through a hose connected to an outside tap away from the house and septic system
- When chlorine cannot be detected at the hose, turn water heater back on and flush taps and appliances with fresh water – Use care initially especially with laundry and bathing as chlorine levels could be high
- Contact Health Department to schedule follow up sampling

## Well Disinfection Bleach Calculation

Total well depth (WD): \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Depth to top of water table (DWT): - \_\_\_\_\_ feet

WD minus DWT = \_\_\_\_\_ feet of standing water in well

On the chart below, round up to the next depth. For example, if your well is 385 feet deep and the water table is at 30 feet, there is 355 feet of standing water in the well. Use the amounts for 370 feet.

Assuming a six-inch well diameter		
Feet of standing water in well	Amount of liquid household bleach*	Amount of liquid household bleach* if not using pool shock
≤200	½ gallon	¾ gallon
270	½ gallon + 2 cups	¾ gallon + 3 cups
320	¾ gallon	1 gallon + 2 cups
370	¾ gallon + 2 cups	1 ¼ gallon + 1 cup
420	1 gallon	1 ½ gallons
640	1 ½ gallons	2 ¼ gallons
<b>*3 ounces of bleach per 10 feet of standing water, minimum ½ gallon</b>		