

**Ocean County Health Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Leslie Terjesen
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732-341-9700, ext. 7224
DATE: November 14, 2012**

**DO NOT CONSUME WATER NOTICE AND DO NOT FLUSH
NOTICE FOR OCEAN COUNTY BARRIER ISLAND**

Ocean County Freeholder Director Gerry P. Little, Liaison to the Ocean County Board of Health said, "Residents that are returning to the Ocean County barrier island communities from Mantoloking to South Seaside Park, including Toms River and Berkeley Township portions of the Barrier Island, are advised not to use the water supply for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, making baby formula or juice."

Daniel E. Regenye, Ocean County Health Department (OCHD) Public Health Coordinator recommends that those returning to their home are advised to use bottled water. He added, "Most water companies are currently working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to assess their tanks, pipes, pumps and valves, and most have not been able to monitor the water quality in those areas yet." He continued, "Water companies are filling storage tanks and water towers to provide water for fire protection. It may be several days to weeks, depending on damage incurred, before inspections of water systems are completed, repairs made and sampling is conducted to ensure water quality is acceptable."

Although you may have water in your lines, it is not acceptable to consume it until testing is complete. Most water companies are advising residents that the water is NOT safe to drink.

Regenye continued, "Residents to the Ocean County Barrier Island area also are advised that local sewage treatment systems also have suffered substantial damage. There are many breaks in the systems, which may have damaged or caused malfunctions in the equipment. People returning home are advised not to flush toilets, take baths and showers or use washing machines or dishwashers. The discharge from such activities may strain already disabled or broken systems."

Sewer utilities are working with the New Jersey DEP to assess the conditions of the treatment systems and make needed repairs to ensure the safety and integrity of the systems.

For more information or if you have questions regarding the advisory, please feel free to call the Ocean County Health Department at 732-341-9700, ext. 7416.

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