



For Immediate Release

October 29, 2026

San Juan County Public Health Announces High Levels of Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) Detected in the San Juan River

San Juan County, UT – San Juan County Public Health has confirmed that following recent flooding, E. coli levels in the San Juan River are above health-based thresholds. Monitoring and testing by San Juan County Public Health and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality indicate the possibility of other harmful pathogens in the water. The public is advised to avoid contact with the river until further notice.

Residents should keep children and families away from the river and affected floodwater. Livestock and pets should not be allowed to enter or drink potentially contaminated river water. Avoid recreational contact. Do not use untreated river water for drinking, cooking, washing or household purposes.

People may become ill after swallowing contaminated water or using it to wash hands or food. Children, pregnant women and individuals with weakened immune systems may be especially vulnerable to certain waterborne illnesses. Symptoms may appear 1 to 4 days after exposure and can include diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fever and rash. Anyone experiencing symptoms after possible exposure should contact a healthcare provider.

E. coli can remain in wet environments for several weeks. Individuals assisting with flood recovery should protect open wounds from contaminated water, practice proper hand hygiene and wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves, eye protection and mouth coverings as needed. Recovery workers should also ensure their tetanus vaccinations are current.

San Juan County Public Health urges residents to follow these precautions and monitor official updates.

For more information:

San Juan County Public Health, (435) 587-3838, publichealth@sanjuancountyut.gov

Utah DEQ recreational water quality: <https://deq.utah.gov/dwq/recreational-water-quality>