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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS  
COMMUNICATIONS

# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Floodwaters Are Not Safe Recreation Areas**

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – As recent rains have created new ponds and rivers in area ditches, Sedgwick County health officials remind residents that it is critical to avoid contact with floodwater and practice basic hygiene.

Floodwater may contain fecal material from overflowing sewage systems, and agricultural and industrial byproducts. Although skin contact with floodwater does not pose a serious health threat, there is some risk of disease from eating or drinking anything tainted by floodwater. Cover any open cuts or sores that will be exposed to floodwater. If a wound develops redness, swelling, or drainage, seek immediate medical attention.

Parents need to help children avoid waterborne illness. **Do not allow children to play in floodwater areas.** If children are exposed, wash their hands and the exposed skin. Do not allow children to play with contaminated toys that have not been disinfected. You can disinfect toys using a solution of one cup of bleach in 5 gallons of water.

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Always wash your hands with soap and water:

- Before preparing or eating food;
- After toilet use;
- After participating in flood cleanup activities; and
- After handling articles contaminated with floodwater or sewage.

If floods damage the water purification systems, use water that has been boiled or disinfected.

“Flood water can be dangerous in a number of ways,” said Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Dave Unruh. “We want to be sure citizens know how to protect themselves and children from potential danger.”

For more information about hand washing or recreational water illnesses, visit our website at [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org).

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