

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flooding Conditions Across the Lakelands Public Health Region: Residents and Business Owners Urged to Take Precautions

Stay away from floodwaters and follow local updates (**April 15, 2026**) – [Lakelands Public Health](#) is advising residents and business owners to take precautions as significant rainfall continues to contribute to flooding across the region. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) reports that ground conditions are already unable to absorb additional rainfall, leading to increased runoff and elevated flood risk.

Several region Conservation Authorities have issued flood-related notices. Flood warnings are currently in effect for areas within the [Otonabee Conservation](#) (Trent Severn Watershed), [Kawartha Conservation](#) (specific lake shorelines), and [Lower Trent Conservation](#) (Trent River). A flood watch has been issued by [Crowe Valley Conservation](#). Watershed safety advisory has been issued by [Ganaraska Region Conservation](#). Provincial flood warnings are also in effect for parts of the region, including Minden and Peterborough. Overall, much of the Lakelands Public Health region is currently under a flood watch or flood warning, with varying levels of risk across watersheds.

Flooding poses several health and safety risks. Floodwater is not clean or safe and may contain harmful bacteria, chemicals, debris, and sewage. Residents are urged to avoid contact with floodwater whenever possible.

Health and Safety Guidance:

- Avoid contact with floodwater and keep children and pets away from affected areas
- Be cautious around floodwaters, as they may be deeper or faster moving than they appear
- Wash hands thoroughly with clean water and soap after any contact with floodwater; clothes that have been in contact with floodwater should be laundered as soon as possible
- Do not consume food that has come into contact with floodwater

Residents who rely on private wells should assume their water is unsafe if flooding has occurred near the well. Use an alternate source of water for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, and preparing infant formula until the water supply has been confirmed [safe](#).

Flooding may also impact private sewage systems, potentially causing backups or surface breakouts. Residents and business owners are encouraged to reduce water use and consider pumping their septic tank as a precaution if flooding is occurring or anticipated.

Clean-Up and Mould Prevention:

When returning to a flooded property, take precautions during clean-up. Wear appropriate protective equipment, including gloves and masks, and ensure proper ventilation to reduce the risk of mould exposure. Additional guidance and fact sheets are available on the Lakelands Public Health [website](#).

Stay Informed and Access Supports

Residents are encouraged to:

- Check current flood status for their area through their local Conservation Authority or Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Program
- Monitor and follow local municipal websites and communications for emergency updates and information on road closures, sandbagging, and available support services
- Flooding can also impact mental health and wellbeing. Residents are encouraged to check in on neighbours, family members, and others who may need support during this time

For more information on flood safety and health guidance, visit LakelandsPH.ca/FloodSafety or contact us directly 1-844-575-4567.

-30-

Media Contact

Ashley Ann Beaulac, SCMP©, B.A. Hons
Communications Manager
Lakelands Public Health
abeaulac@lakelandsph.ca

About Lakelands Public Health

Lakelands Public Health is the public health agency that is proud to serve Alderville, Curve Lake and Hiawatha First Nations, the Urban Indigenous Community, the Counties of Haliburton, Northumberland, Cities of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough City and County. It is through our relationships and valued partnerships that Lakelands Public Health strives to protect health, prevent illness, injury, all while promoting overall well-being for all who live, work and learn in the region.

Established through the voluntary merger of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit and Peterborough Public Health, Lakelands Public Health combines local knowledge, public health expertise, and a strong community focus to deliver programs and services that respond to local needs. These include infectious disease prevention and control, healthy living initiatives, environmental health, school and family health programs, and emergency preparedness. For more information, visit LakelandsPH.ca.