



KEEPING SAFE ONCE YOU RETURN HOME.

**Grand County  
Public Health  
970-725-3288**

# SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Upon arrival, check for signs of damage around septic tank.  
(i.e. exposed sewage.)

*Note: If damaged, limit access to the area, don't use and call for further guidance.*

## Sewage exposure risks

- Raw sewage can contain bacteria, viruses and parasites.
- The risk of illness depends on the type and duration of exposure to the sewage.
- The most common mode of infection is through oral contact with sewage, often by touching the mouth with a hand.
- Skin contact poses a health threat if someone has an open wound.
- Reduce the risk of exposure if you have contact with sewage. Take appropriate safety precautions and clean up quickly and thoroughly.
- Assume anything touched by sewage is contaminated. ; Avoid water contaminated with sewage. ; Do not eat or drink in areas near sewage.

## If exposed to sewage....

- Wash thoroughly with soap and clean water after contact with sewage, sewage-contaminated water or any item that is contaminated with sewage, especially before eating or touching the mouth or face.
- Hand sanitizers can be used in addition to hand washing, but not in place of washing.
- Hand sanitizers may be helpful in situations where hand washing facilities are not accessible or readily available.
- Immediately clean any wound that comes into contact with sewage or floodwaters.
- After contact with sewage, remove contaminated clothes and shower. Launder clothes separately or discard them.