Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community

SEWAGE CLEANUP

Clean up sewage backup as soon as possible to prevent illness

What are the health risks of sewage?

- Sewage contains bacteria, viruses, and other germs that can **cause disease** and make a **contaminated house** unfit for living. Symptoms from being exposed to sewage may include diarrhea, stomach pain, fever, chills, vomiting, and skin rashes/infections. Contact your doctor right away and stay vaccinated.

What can I do to keep it from backing up?

- Limit the amount of water going down the drain. Do not flush toilets.
- Try to find **other locations** to use the bathroom, shower, and to wash clothes.

What should I do when cleaning up sewage?

If possible, hire a professional company. If YOU do the cleanup, protect yourelf!

- Keep **children and pets** out of the area.
- **Protect yourself** by wearing long pants and long sleeve shirts, rubber boots, goggles/protective face masks, and waterproof gloves.
- Use **cleaning supplies** such as brooms, mops, buckets, hose and disinfectants.
- **Clean and disinfect* all items and surfaces** touched by sewage.
- **Wash hands** thoroughly after cleaning.

** use 1 cup unscented household bleach in 5 gallons of water*

ALWAYS throw away:

- **Items that cannot be washed and disinfected**, such as cosmetics, books, mattresses, stuffed animals, toys, carpet, upholstered furniture.
- Food, medicines and medical supplies that may have come in contact with sewage water.

Protect your family. Protect yourself. Clean up sewage!