

# Clean Water Ambassador Webinar

September 3, 2020

Office of the **Clean Water Public Advocate**



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

# Webinar Guidelines

- When joining the webinar, please ensure you are muted.
- If you have a question or comment, please raise your hand or share it in the chat box. We will call on participants to unmute their line to speak and will be reading questions from the chat box.
- Please be kind and respectful of what others are sharing. Clean Water Ambassadors will have varying degrees of experience in the drinking water realm; all ambassadors bring value to the conversation.

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# Helpful Tips

- Please check to make sure your microphone is muted. The button should look like this . If it looks like this , it is not muted.
- To turn on your video, press the . If you need to shut it off, just press the button again.
- To raise your hand, press the .
- To chat, press the . Please note that everyone will be able to view your message.

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# Our Agenda

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## **Welcome and Recap**

Ninah Sasy, Clean Water Public Advocate



## **Overview of School Drinking Water Project**

Holly Gohlke



## **Resources and Info on Residential Wells**

Kristin Ward and Kaitlyn DeFouw



## **Statewide & Local Drinking Water Advisory Councils**

Wayne Jernberg and Ariel Zoldan



## **Feedback & Questions from Ambassadors**

We want to hear from you



## **Looking Ahead**

Upcoming initiatives and timeline



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# Recap of the previous Clean Water Ambassador Meeting

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Ninah Sasy, Clean Water Public Advocate

# Ambassador Webinar #1 Take-aways

- Need more resources available for private residential well owners
- Need more information about responsibilities of water suppliers i.e. the Safe Drinking Water Act
- Ambassadors would like to help champion this work in their community

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# Private Residential Wells

## WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL WELLS?

Some Michigan residents receive their water from private residential wells. EPA regulations that protect public drinking water systems do not apply to privately owned wells. As a result, owners of private wells are responsible for ensuring that their water is safe from contaminants.

For information on water quality and well construction, please review the fact sheets below. Contact your [local health department](#) for additional information.

### WATER QUALITY

- [Arsenic in Well Water](#)
- [Coliform Bacteria & Well Water Sampling](#)
- [Drinking Water Well Maintenance](#)
- [Elevated Hydrogen Sulfide Gas](#)
- [Flowing Wells](#)
- [Groundwater Statistics](#)
- [Insects in Your Water Well](#)
- [Iron Bacteria in Wells](#)
- [Manganese in Wells](#)
- [Nitrate and Nitrite in Drinking Water](#)
- [Protecting Your Private Water Supply in an Emergency](#)
- [Understanding your Drinking Water Sample Results](#)

### WELL CONSTRUCTION

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# Safe Drinking Water Act

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***Many Ambassadors also expressed a desire to be more involved in clean water initiatives within their communities, including a statewide drinking water campaign:***

“This is an incredible idea. This is an idea whose time has come. Thank you so much for picking up on this concern from the previous [Ambassador] meeting.”

“I think it would be really beneficial.”

“Very important. **Knowledge is power.**”

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# *Statewide Drinking Water Campaign*

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**Ambassador Project:**  
School Drinking Water Lead  
Testing Project

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Holly Gohlke



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# School Drinking Water Program



Holly Gohlke, R.S., M.S.A.

517-220-1904 | [GohlkeH@Michigan.gov](mailto:GohlkeH@Michigan.gov)

# School *Quality* Drinking Water Program

- No regulatory requirements
- Water quality can change
  - Premise plumbing
  - Intermittent water usage



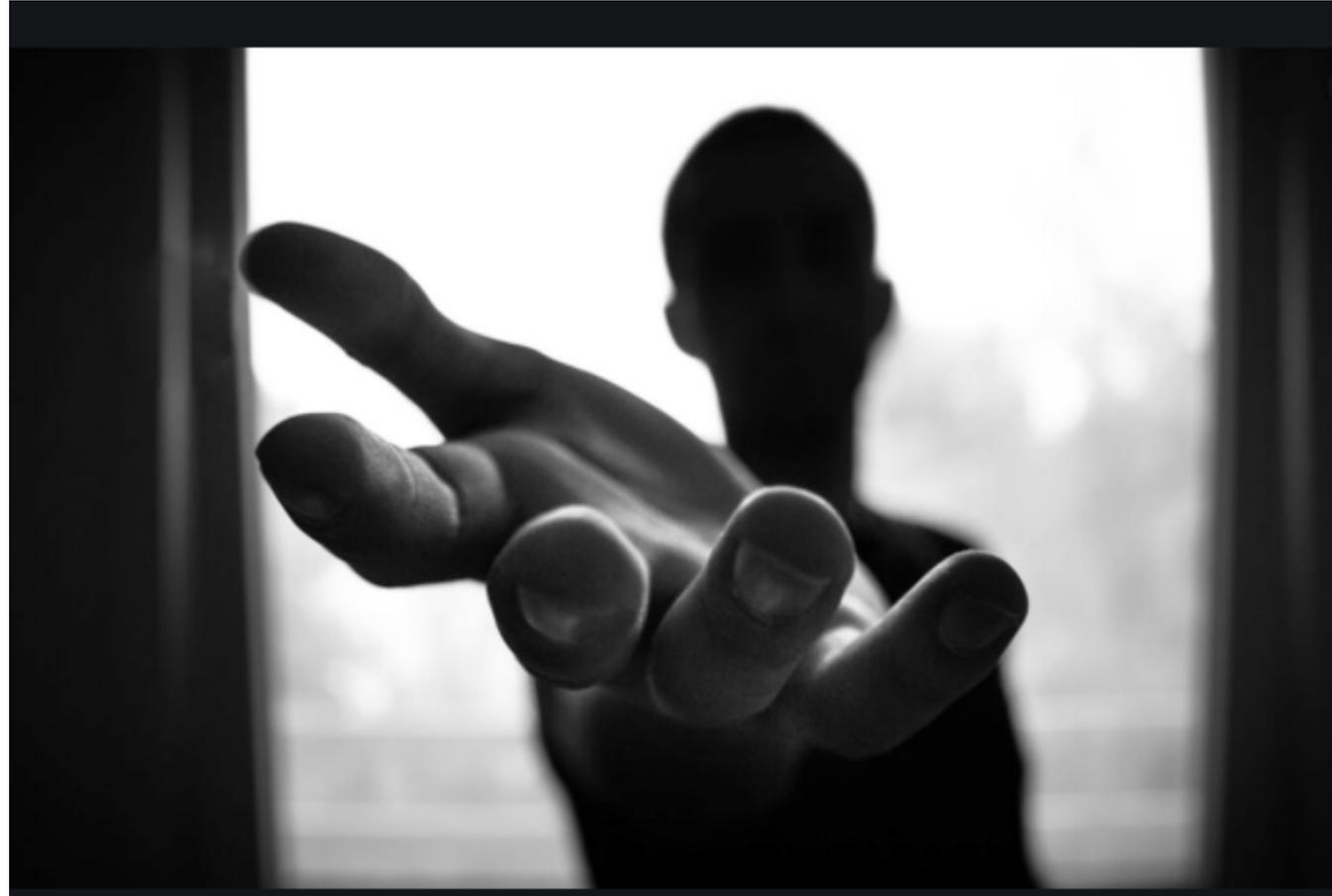
# School Quality Drinking Water Program

- To promote quality drinking water in school buildings
- Encourage investigative drinking water lead testing
- Provide tools to assist school administrators
- Provide technical assistance & education
- Sample collection training
- Lead testing grant
- Non-regulatory



[www.Michigan.gov/SchoolWater](http://www.Michigan.gov/SchoolWater)

# Reaching Out for Help



# How Ambassadors Can Help

**You can help the schools or childcares in your community...**

- Share information about EGLE's school drinking water program
- Develop a communication plan
- With plumbing assessments
- With public education on lead risk
- With sampling efforts
- Find funding sources for remediation efforts
- With remediation efforts



[www.Michigan.gov/SchoolWater](http://www.Michigan.gov/SchoolWater)

[www.Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe](http://www.Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe)

[www.Michigan.gov/DrinkingWater](http://www.Michigan.gov/DrinkingWater)

517-220-1904

GohlkeH@Michigan.gov



# MDHHS Residential Wells Initiatives

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Kristin Ward and Kaitlyn DeFouw

# MiWell Initiative – Private Residential Well Education and Outreach

Presented by: Kaitlyn DeFouw and Kristin Ward



# MiWell Program

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) 2015-2020 CDC Safe WATCH (Water for Community Health) Grantee
- Overall program goal: to identify and address gaps in existing private well programs in Michigan

CDC Safe WATCH program info: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/safe-watch/index.html>

Accessible Version: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/publications/infographic-safe-watch.html>

# SAFE WATCH

## SAFE WATER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

*Safer Well Water through Stronger Public Health Programs*

Learn how CDC works with health departments to protect communities from unsafe well water.

### The Issue



**1 of 9**

About 1 in 9 Americans get their drinking water from a private well.



Germs, chemicals, or radionuclides can impact wells and other private drinking water sources.



**1 of 5**

About 1 in 5 sampled private wells had contaminants at levels that could affect health.

### Making Programs Stronger

Safe WATCH works with well water programs at health departments to help them improve their services, like



**Investigating** common contaminants that can affect health.



**Educating** well owners about testing their water and interpreting test results.



**Linking** homeowners with services, treatment systems, and other resources to make their water safer.



**Partnering** with labs, well drillers, universities, and others.



# **Education and Outreach**



# Drinking Water Supply Types

## Type 1 Community Public Water Supply

- Provides water to at least 25 residents or 15 living units year-round.
- Some examples are municipalities (cities, towns, etc.), apartments, nursing homes and manufactured housing communities.
- The water is pumped from surface water (lakes, rivers) or groundwater using water wells.

## Type 2 Non-Transient Non-Community Public Water Supply

- Provides water to at least 25 of the same people for at least six months or more a year, but not for year-round residential living.
- Some examples are schools, daycares and office buildings that have their own water system.
- Water is typically pumped from groundwater using water wells.

## Type 2 Transient Non-Community Public Water Supply

- Provides water to at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year, but does not serve the same 25 people for more than six months of the year.
- Some examples are hotels, restaurants, campgrounds, gas stations and churches.
- Water is typically pumped from groundwater using water wells.

## Type 3 Public Water Supply

- All other public water supplies that provide drinking water not considered a Type 1 or Type 2 are considered a Type 3.
- Some examples are small apartment complexes or condominiums, duplexes and very small businesses. Ownership of multiple Type 3 wells may change the drinking water supply type.
- Water is pumped from groundwater using water wells.

## Private Residential Well

- Provides water to a single-family residential home. Water is pumped from groundwater using a water well.



Type 1  
Community Public  
Water Supply

Type 2  
Non-Transient  
Non-Community  
Public Water Supply

Type 2  
Transient  
Non-Community  
Public Water Supply

Type 3  
Public Water  
Supply

Private  
Residential Well

# Drinking Water Supply Types

# Drinking Water Well Maintenance

Maintaining your well and the surrounding area is important for protecting your drinking water and your health. Here are tips on how to maintain your well through regular inspections, testing, and treatment.

## Well Inspection



### Wellhead and Well Cap

Check the wellhead (the part of the well that's above ground) and the well cap (the part that covers the wellhead) several times a year. Look at the wellhead casing and cap for any cracks or openings that shouldn't be there. The cap keeps rainwater, insects, and small animals from getting into the well.

If you find problems, contact a registered well driller. To find a registered well driller in your area, visit [Michigan.gov/WaterWellConstruction](https://www.michigan.gov/WaterWellConstruction) and choose "Directory of Registered Constructors."

### Well System

- Have a registered well driller inspect the well system every 10 years or as needed. The inspection will include the condition of the well, pump, storage tank, piping, and valves. When it's time for a new well, contact a registered well driller for installation and to properly abandon (plug or seal) the old well.

### Surroundings

Look around your well to see if items or materials are nearby that could impact your well.

- Do not store, use, or dump harmful materials such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil near the wellhead. If you do use lawn fertilizer, follow the application instructions. Don't over apply near the wellhead.
- Keep the top of your wellhead 12 inches above the ground. Slope the ground away to help keep water from ponding near the wellhead.
- Do not plant shrubs and trees near the well.
- Be sure you can easily get to your wellhead for maintenance and/or for pump replacement. Never build a deck or porch over a wellhead. Buildings should be at least 3 feet from the wellhead.
- Keep dog kennels or animal holding areas at least 50 feet from your well.
- If your home has a septic system it's important to maintain it. Poor maintenance can lead to contaminants getting into your drinking water.

## Routine Well Maintenance



Regular maintenance is recommended for your well, including water testing and inspection. Having a maintenance routine will keep you informed of your drinking water quality and possibly identify problems.

### Water Testing

Michigan homeowners are required to test their drinking water for coliform bacteria when a well is installed. Consider testing your drinking water if flooding has happened near your well, your well has had repairs, or you notice changes in your water's taste, color, or odor. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends testing:

- Every year for coliform bacteria, *E. coli*, nitrate, and nitrite
- Every three to five years for arsenic, copper, and lead
- Check with your local health department to see if there are other times you need to test your drinking water. They may recommend other testing based on water conditions in the area.

# Well Maintenance



# Private Residential Well Maintenance Social Media

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## Protect Against the Unknown: Test Your Drinking Water from Your Well

Contaminants in drinking water can harm everyone's health. Some can cause short-term health problems while others can cause long-term health problems.

As a well owner, you can protect your family's health by testing your water regularly.

### Why is it important to test your drinking water?

Testing will keep you informed about your water quality and help identify problems. Testing the water used for drinking, cooking food, or mixing powdered infant formula is especially important.

Pregnant women, infants, and young children's health can be more at risk. It's important to talk with your doctor if you have health concerns.

- Some contaminants can pass from the mother to the fetus. This puts the fetus at risk of harm to their health and development.
- Babies drink more for their size than children and adults. This can result in higher exposure to babies than adults, which could increase risk of harm to their health.



### When should you test your drinking water, and for what?

Wells are required to be tested for coliform bacteria when installed or repaired in Michigan. Based on where you live, you may be required to test your water at other times, such as during real estate transactions.

Call your local health department to learn more about when you need to test your water. They may also recommend additional testing based on water conditions in your area.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends the following routine well testing schedule.

Every Year	Every 3 to 5 Years
Coliform Bacteria and <i>E. coli</i>	Arsenic
Nitrate	Copper
Nitrite	Lead

Other times to consider testing your water:

- A household member becomes pregnant
- An infant or young child is living in the home
- Flooding has happened near the well
- Repairs were made to the well
- The water's taste, color, or smell changes

# Testing Private Residential Well Drinking Water



# Drinking Water Testing Social Media

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# Contaminant Fact Sheets

## Coliform Bacteria in Drinking Water for Well Owners

### What are coliform bacteria?

Coliform bacteria are found in soil, surface water, on plants, and in the intestines of warm-blooded animals and people. One type of coliform bacteria called *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) is a sign that fecal waste is in the water. Some types of *E. coli* in drinking water can make you sick.

### What health problems can coliform bacteria cause?

Most coliform bacteria are not harmful. However, some can make you sick. A person that has been exposed to these bacteria may have an upset stomach, vomiting, fever, or diarrhea. Children and the elderly are more at risk from these bacteria.

**Take *E. coli* bacteria seriously when found in drinking water. Some *E. coli* can make you sick or even cause death.**

Vomiting	Upset Stomach
Fever	Diarrhea

### How does coliform bacteria get into your well water?

When coliform bacteria are washed into the ground by rain, melting snow, or irrigation, it can get into drinking water. Coliform bacteria can be from:

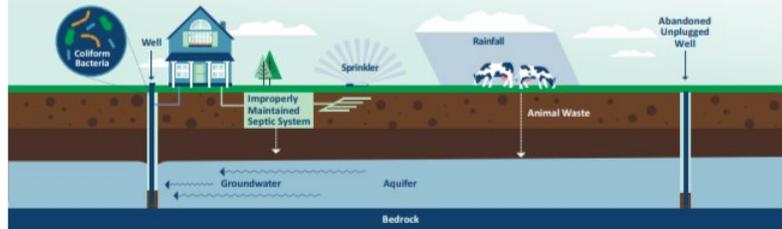
- Woodlands, pastures, or feedlot runoff
- Wild or domestic animal waste
- Poorly maintained septic systems

Coliform bacteria can enter your water if you have:

- A damaged wellhead (the part of the well that's above ground) including the casing and/or well caps
- An unplugged or abandoned well in the area
- A new well not properly disinfected
- Drinking water pipes connected to non-drinking water sources such as waste water, laundry sinks, or garden hoses



**Damaged wellhead with cracked well cap and exposed wires**  
Photo provided by Barry-Eaton District Health Department



## Nitrate and Nitrite in Drinking Water for Well Owners

### What are nitrate and nitrite?

Nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3$ ) and nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) are forms of nitrogen in the environment, both natural and human-made. Large amounts of nitrate in drinking water can be harmful to a person's health because nitrate can change into nitrite in the human body.

### What health problems can nitrate and nitrite cause?

Swallowing high amounts of nitrate and/or nitrite can cause a condition called methemoglobinemia (met-he-mo-glo-bi-ne-mia). This condition affects the blood's ability to carry oxygen. Infants younger than six months of age and pregnant women are more at risk of developing this condition. Others can develop this condition too, such as those with genetic conditions or reduced stomach acidity. It's important to talk with your doctor or your child's doctor if you have concerns about methemoglobinemia.



### Pregnant Women and Infants

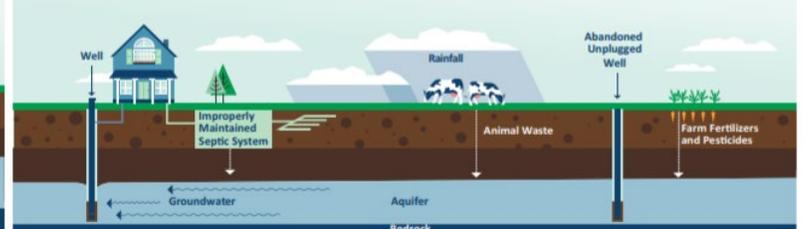
During pregnancy, the blood's ability to carry oxygen changes. When combined with high amounts of nitrate, a pregnant woman's chances of developing this condition increases.

Methemoglobinemia is commonly called blue baby syndrome in infants younger than six months of age. Infants can develop this condition when given water or formula made with water that has high amounts of nitrate. Infants have less acid in their stomach, resulting in more bacteria that change nitrate to nitrite. Having too much nitrite in the body affects the blood's ability to carry oxygen. This causes the skin around the eyes and mouth to turn a bluish color. Methemoglobinemia can cause death if not addressed. Immediately stop using the water and contact your child's doctor if you notice these symptoms.

### How does nitrate get into your well water?

When nitrate seeps into the ground it can get into drinking water. Nitrate is more likely to enter your water if you have a shallow well, damaged well casings and fittings, a well not within a clay barrier underground, or nearby unplugged or abandoned wells. Nitrate found in drinking water is often from:

- Fertilizers
- Livestock waste
- Failing septic tanks, drainfields and drywells



# Worksheets



## MI WELL WATER

These words are about well water and making sure it's safe to drink. How many can you find?

Words are hidden in the water droplet. They can be read forward or backward and found across, diagonal, or up and down.

clean  
contamination  
drinking water  
faucet aerator  
groundwater  
health  
inspect  
laboratory  
maintenance  
pollution  
safe  
treatment  
water quality  
water test  
well  
well cap  
well head  
well system



**MDHHS**  
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services  
<https://bit.ly/39uwrhO>



## MI WELL WATER

### Well Water Test Maze

Testing water is the only way to know if your water is safe to drink! Contaminants can enter the water used for drinking. Some can be harmful to your health.

Make your way through the maze to collect a water sample for testing.



**MDHHS**  
<https://bit.ly/39uwrhO>

# Additional Michigan Residential Private Well Owner Resources



## Online Test Result Interpretation Tool

Collaborated with EGLE to develop an online water testing interpretation tool using EPA template. Will help well owners understand their laboratory reports.

[Be Well Informed Tool](#)

## Online Mapping Platform

The mapping platform educates local units of government and the public about where their drinking water comes from and the existing ordinances for wells and septic systems in the state.

[Managing Water for Health Story Map](#)

# Mi Water Source

Enviroscape Education Model



# Moving forward

Additional fact sheets

Step-By-Step Water Sample Collection Instructions

Website

Toolkits

Promotional items

Events

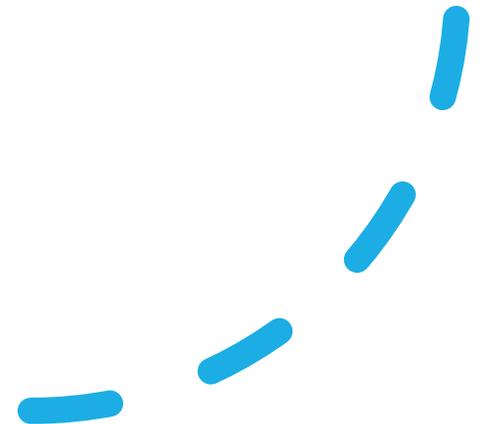
Animations

Video demonstrations

# Private Residential Well Information

Visit the Office of the Clean Water Public Advocate website to find information about private residential wells

[https://www.michigan.gov/cleanwater/0,9779,7-411-98113\\_99713\\_100079---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/cleanwater/0,9779,7-411-98113_99713_100079---,00.html)



# Thank You!

## **MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline**

844-934-1315

### **Kristin Ward, MSA**

Health Educator

MDHHS - Environmental Health Division

Community Engagement Unit

517-331-0592

[wardk9@michigan.gov](mailto:wardk9@michigan.gov)

### **Kaitlyn DeFouw**

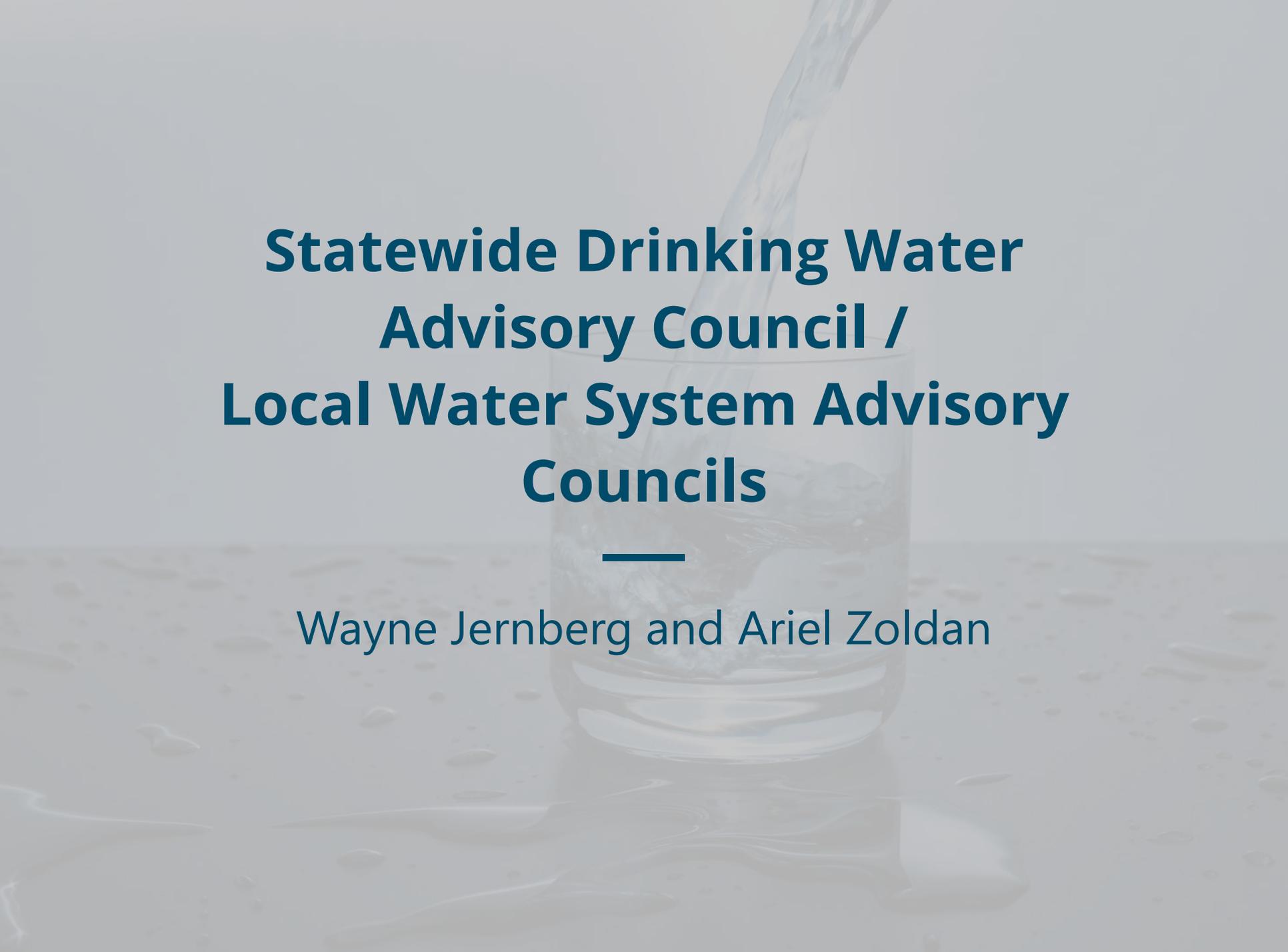
Private Well Investigation Coordinator

MDHHS - Environmental Health Division

Drinking Water Investigation Unit

517-285-3644

[defouwk@michigan.gov](mailto:defouwk@michigan.gov)

A photograph of water being poured into a clear glass. The water is captured in mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash. The glass sits on a light-colored, wet surface that reflects the glass and the water. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light gray.

# **Statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council / Local Water System Advisory Councils**

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Wayne Jernberg and Ariel Zoldan

# CLEAN WATER AMBASSADOR PRESENTATION



GRAND RAPIDS  
WATER SYSTEM





# STATEWIDE DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

- WHO ARE WE?
    - VOLUNTEERS
      - COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY
      - NON-COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY
      - MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL
      - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATOR
      - PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT A UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE
      - ENVIRONMENTAL OR PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCACY REPRESENTATIVE
      - PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATOR
      - 2 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE
    - ALL ARE TO HAVE DEMONSTRATED INTEREST IN OR KNOWLEDGE OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER AND ITS EFFECTS
- 

# SDWAC RESPONSIBILITIES

- R325.10410 (6) (I THRU V)
  - (I) “DEVELOP PLANS FOR CONTINUING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER”
  - (II) “...GENERATE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN MATERIALS...”
  - (III) “ASSIST IN THE PROMOTING THE TRANSPARENCY OF DATA AND DOCUMENTS RELATED TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER WITHIN THE STATE”
  - (IV) “ADVISE...WATER SUPPLY COUNCILS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE PLANS FOR REMEDIATION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION...RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC AND MINIMIZING THE RISK OF LEAD EXPOSURE...”
  - (V) “PROVIDE ADVICE, DIRECTION AND ASSISTANCE...TO INDIVIDUAL WATER SUPPLIES...”

# SDWAC WORK SO FAR

- LOCAL COUNCIL SURVEYS
- NEWSLETTERS TO LOCAL COUNCILS WITH UPDATES ON ACTIVITIES AT STATE LEVEL
- COLLECTING DOCUMENTS AND EXAMPLES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES TO SHARE VIA STATE WEBSITE
- PERFORMED TWO WEBINARS DETAILING RULE REQUIREMENTS, ONGOING COMMUNITY WORK AND HEALTH IMPACTS/RESPONSES
- DEVELOPING AN ACTION PLAN

# SDWAC GOING FORWARD

- STILL WORKING TO TRANSLATE THE REQUIREMENTS INTO AN ACTION PLAN
- DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS TO HELP ENGAGE THE LOCAL COUNCILS (PERHAPS PARTNERING A STRUGGLING COUNCIL WITH ONE PERFORMING WELL)
- MORE WEBINARS WITH MORE PARTICIPATION BY THE LOCAL COUNCILS; GET THE LOCAL COUNCILS MORE INVOLVED IN OUR MEETINGS
- TARGETED PUBLIC TV OUTREACH (DETROIT)
- TAKE PART IN MORE PRESENTATIONS LIKE THIS ONE TODAY TO HELP SPREAD THE WORD AND GET MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED
- CONTINUE TO PUSH FORWARD WITH CORE RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
  - WORKING TO BEGIN PROCESS OF DEVELOPING CAMPAIGN TO CARRY OUT CORE RESPONSIBILITIES (POTENTIAL FOR FUNDING SUPPORT)
- CONTINUE TO WORK AROUND THE PFAS AND COVID ISSUES TO TURN MISSION AND OBJECTIVES INTO A CONCISE WORK PLAN



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS WATER SYSTEM WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

- **MISSION**

- TO EMBRACE CULTURAL DIVERSITY, INCLUSIVITY, AND EQUITY AMONG ALL CUSTOMERS OF THE GRAND RAPIDS WATER SYSTEM THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT BY DEVELOPING PUBLIC AWARENESS TOOLS THAT PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND ADVOCATES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

- **VISION**

- A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP THAT ADVISES AND CONSULTS WITH THE GRAND RAPIDS WATER SYSTEM AND ITS COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT WATER QUALITY ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY WITH THE GOAL OF ELIMINATING LEAD SERVICE LINES, LEAD IN DRINKING WATER, AND PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH.
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# GR WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

- ◆ Surround ourselves with excellence and experience; Cultivate a team that is willing to listen and serve the public
- ◆ Council is mix of officials, engaged customers, experts and water providers
  - ◆ Healthy Homes Coalition Executive Director
  - ◆ Neighborhood Association Executive Director
  - ◆ Citizen with background in Health and Communications
  - ◆ KC Health Dept. Environmental Health Director
  - ◆ Two Wholesale Partner Community representatives
  - ◆ Two GR Water employees
  - ◆ One GR Diversity and Inclusion employee

# ACHIEVEMENTS AND INITIATIVES

- Meet every other month and provide updates on LSL removals
- Review of Lead and Copper Rule and past testing results
- LSL Replacement guidelines
- Reviewed and revised construction project LSL notice letters and access agreements
- Assist in coordinating public meetings to talk about LCR, LSLs and impacts of lead in drinking water; also provided feedback on information presented
- Support GR Water in development of Service Line Material webmap
- Reviewed DSMI prior to submittal
- LSL Notification letter development
- Vacant home LSL analysis
- PFAS, Legionella response discussions
- Customer Service Surveys coming

# QUESTIONS?



Wayne Jernberg, PE  
Water System Manager  
City of Grand Rapids  
[wjernberg@grcity.us](mailto:wjernberg@grcity.us)  
616.456.4055

# Feedback and Questions from Ambassadors

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We want to hear from you

# Looking Ahead

“The health of our communities and the strength of our economy depend on the fundamentals of safe water.”

**Governor Gretchen Whitmer**

Office of the **Clean Water Public Advocate**



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# CW Ambassador Webinars: Upcoming Topics

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- October 2020 – **Communication Plan for Launch of Statewide Drinking Water Concern System**
- November 2020 – **Annual Accountability Report**

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## **Additional Way to Get Involved:**

Register to attend upcoming **Michigan Environmental Compliance Week** presentations, held the week of September 21-25, 2020

### **Presentations include:**

- PFAS and Rules in Drinking Water
- Lead and Copper Rule: Lead Service Line Replacement Funding and Sampling

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# Contact Us

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[Michigan.gov/CleanWater](https://Michigan.gov/CleanWater)



[EGLE-CleanWater@Michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-CleanWater@Michigan.gov)

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