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

Contaminants in drinking water can harm everyone's health. Contaminants can cause short-term or 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?

**You cannot taste, see or smell some contaminants.** Testing will keep you informed about your water quality and help find problems. Testing the water used for drinking, cooking food or mixing powdered infant formula is especially important.

## 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.

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

| Every Year | Every 3 to 5 Years | At Least Once |
|---|---|---|
| Coliform Bacteria and *E. coli* | Arsenic | PFAS |
| Nitrate | Lead | |
| Nitrite | | |

**Contact your local health department or MDHHS to check for more testing recommendations near you.**

**Other times to consider testing your water:**

- A household member is 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.

Interested in learning more about the contaminants listed above? There is more information available on our website.

- You can read more about each of the drinking water contaminants in our fact sheet library online by visiting Eh.Michigan.gov/DWContamination.
- Additional information about private well testing can be found on the Test Your Drinking Water section of the Eh.Michigan.gov/DW-Testing webpage.

## Test your drinking water

You can test your drinking water for the contaminants listed above and more.

If you're interested, please call MDHHS or your local health department for guidance on which ones to test for in your local area. Your local health department may offer drinking water testing, or you can contact a certified private drinking water analysis laboratory directly. The cost for a test may vary between labs and the contaminants you choose to test for. Visit Eh.Michigan.gov/DW-Testing to learn more about your options.

Then, if you have questions about your lab results or how to interpret your results, you can call MDHHS at 800-648-6942 to speak to a toxicologist about your results.

## For more information

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**
800-648-6942
Michigan.gov/CareforMiDrinkingWater

**Michigan Local Health Departments**
bit.ly/MiHealthDepartment

**Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy**
Michigan.gov/DrinkingWater
Michigan.gov/WaterWellConstruction

**Laboratory Services**
Michigan.gov/EGLElab

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