



**District Health
Department #10**
Healthy People, Healthy Communities



NATIONAL DRINKING WATER WEEK

Have You Tested Your Well?

May 6, 2024 – During National Drinking Water Week, May 5-11, 2024, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is reminding residents to get their drinking water tested if they are using a private well.

During this week, Michigan also recognizes May 9, 2024 as Private Residential Well Awareness Day to bring attention to the 2.6 million Michiganders who depend on private wells for their drinking water and the responsibilities of well owners to maintain and test their wells for contaminants.

“Most contaminants in drinking water have no taste, color, or smell,” said DHD#10 Health Educator, Travis Stenger. “The only way you might know if you have a problem is to test your drinking water.”

Testing your private well will keep you informed about the quality and safety of your drinking water and may offer insight into when further action may be needed. Keep in mind that water sampling is a snapshot in time of your water’s quality, so we recommend you test for bacteria and nitrates annually.

“DHD#10 has an in-house drinking water testing lab located at our Mason County office,” said DHD#10 Health Educator Shaun O’Connor. “The lab can perform drinking water testing and analysis for the bacteria known as Coliform, including E. coli, as well as for Nitrate. Our lab can also test for E. coli in surface water from lakes, rivers, and streams.”

HOW IT WORKS

DHD#10 offices have water testing kits available at any of our county office locations. Bacteria test kits are separate from Nitrate test kits to allow for analysis of both or just one contaminant.

- Bacterial Testing Kit: Cost = \$20 – All bacterial testing kits come with a sample bottle and a pre-addressed envelope to mail the sample back.*
- Nitrate Testing Kit: Cost = \$20 – All nitrate testing kits come with a sample bottle, pre-addressed envelope, gel pack and cooler to send your sample back.*

*Carefully follow the test kit instructions. If you are performing both the bacterial and the nitrate tests, you can send both sample bottles inside the cooler provided for the nitrate test.

If you would like to know where to test your water for other analytes, a list of certified drinking water labs in Michigan and additional information can be found by visiting the DHD#10 website at: <https://www.dhd10.org/homeowners/drinking-water-testing/>.



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