

**Not on
public
water?**

**WHAT'S
IN YOUR
DRINKING
WATER?**

**FREE WELL WATER TESTING PROGRAM
For Individual Residential Wells**

**Clinton County Health Department
518-565-4870
www.clintonhealth.org**



Clinton County **HEALTH** Department

NOT ON PUBLIC WATER?

WHY SHOULD I TEST MY DRINKING WATER?

Even if your water looks, smells, and tastes fine, the only way to know if the water in your home is safe to drink is by testing it. **Contaminants**, such as germs (bacteria and viruses) or other pollutants, may be getting into your water.

Coliform bacteria is found in the soil, in water that has been contaminated by surface water, and in human and animal wastes. If coliform bacteria are found in water, it means that the water system is not properly sealed, and may be unsafe. The CCHD strongly suggests that homeowners with a private water source, such as wells, test the water for coliform bacteria at least one time each year using a New York State certified lab. Homeowners should also make sure that the area around the well is kept clean and free of animal waste and other pollution.



WHEN SHOULD I TEST MY DRINKING WATER?

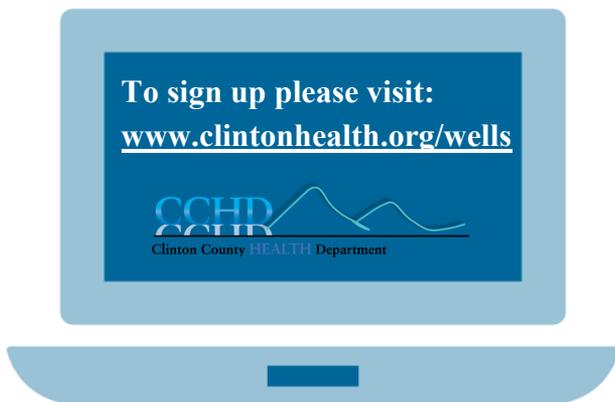
If you are not on public water and get your water from a private well, unless you test regularly, you may NOT know if your water is safe to drink.

Test your drinking water:

- Yearly for bacteria and nitrates.
- At least every three years for other water contaminants to make sure nothing has changed. Long-term exposure to even low levels of contaminants can effect your health.
- When you are expecting a baby.
- When your water changes in smell, taste, or color. If this happens, drink bottled water and call us at 518-565-4870 to find out which tests you should do.
- If you put in new parts to your water system, like a new pump or new water softener. Test for bacteria after disinfecting and flushing.
- If you put in a water treatment system to fix a problem. Test the treated water each year for that problem to ensure treatment is working properly.

HOW CAN I GET MY WATER TESTED FOR FREE?

The CCHD is currently offering free well testing for a limited number of samples. If you live in Clinton County and own a home served by a private well, then you may be eligible for our free water testing service.



Home water samples will be collected by Health Department staff and may take 2-4 weeks for processing. Questions? Call the CCHD at **518-565-4870**.

WHAT DO WE TEST FOR?*

Contaminant	Standard**	Potential Health Effect
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any positive result is a health concern	Indicates that potentially harmful bacteria may be in your water (i.e., if total coliform bacteria can get into your water, other bacteria that can make you ill may also be able to get in to, or already be in, your water. Illness might include a gastrointestinal illness or “stomach bug”).
Nitrate**	10 mg/l	Lack of oxygen to the body’s cells and tissues in infants (“blue baby syndrome”).

*Contaminants tested for may vary depending on eligibility criteria

** Results will be compared to the proposed New York State Water Quality Standards for Individual Onsite Water Supply Systems

WHAT ELSE COULD BE IN MY DRINKING WATER?

The CCHD does not test for the contaminants listed below.

To check for these contaminants in your water, contact one of the NYS approved labs listed here: <https://bit.ly/2pej1As>.

Contaminant	Standard	Potential Health Effect
Lead	0.015 mg/L	Brain, nerve and kidney damage, especially in children. Note: Free well sampling for lead may be available through New York State. For more information visit https://on.ny.gov/2mflcVB .
Manganese	0.3 mg/L	No direct health effects, but may change the color, odor or taste of water. Black or brown staining of clothes or fixtures can occur.
Sodium	No limit set	Can worsen high blood pressure. Water with more than 20 mg/L should not be consumed by individuals on a severely restricted sodium diet; water with more than 270 mg/L should not be consumed by individuals on a moderately restricted diet.
Nitrite	1 mg/L	Lack of oxygen to the body's cells and tissues in infants ("blue baby syndrome").
Iron	0.3 mg/L	No direct health effects, but may change the color, odor or taste of water. Rusty color and staining of fixtures or clothes can occur.
Arsenic	0.01 mg/L	Darkening of skin, small corns or warts on body, and increased risk for certain cancers.



Clinton County Health Department
Environmental Health & Safety
133 Margaret Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Phone (518) 565-4870 • Fax (518) 565-4843

www.ClintonHealth.org



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