

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

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Health Dept. offering limited time water testing drop-off service for rural residents

Eau Claire, WI, March 1st, 2023 – From March 1st through April 30th, the Health Department is offering a free drop-off service for well water test samples (water testing fees will still apply). Residents who wish to get their well water tested can pick up water sample bottles and return filled bottles at designated locations throughout Eau Claire County. Health Department staff will pick them up and deliver to our lab, saving residents a trip to the Health Department office in Eau Claire.

Regularly testing the water in your home's private well ensures that it is free of contaminants and safe to drink. We recommend testing private wells for bacteria and nitrate each year, if there is a change in your water's color, taste, or smell, or if any work is being done on your private well. The total cost of a bacteria and nitrate test is \$46.

How the drop off service works:

1. Pick up water sample bottles at one of the following locations during business hours:

- Augusta Library (113 N. Stone St., Augusta)
- Augusta City Hall (145 W. Lincoln St., Augusta)
- Beaver Creek Reserve (S1 County Rd. K, Fall Creek)
- Fairchild Library (208 Huron St., Fairchild)
- Fall Creek Library (122 E. Lincoln Ave., Fall Creek)
- Simple Traditions Clinic (152 W. Lincoln St., Augusta)

2. Fill up the sample bottles, following the instructions on the bottle, on the day you want to drop it off.

3. Drop off your filled sample bottles at one of these locations during these times:

- Augusta Library (Tuesdays, 9am-7pm)
- Beaver Creek Reserve (Sundays, 12pm-4pm)
- Fairchild Library (Tuesdays, 10:30am-5pm)
- Fall Creek Library (Tuesdays, 10am-6pm)

4. We'll pick up the samples and deliver to the Health Department office.

- The Health Department will mail you a bill for testing fees. Typically, we email/mail bacteria and nitrate water test results to you within two business days. If you requested additional testing (like metals), results can take up to two weeks.
- If your results say your water is unsafe, our team can recommend **optional** tests or treatment. They can also share information about potential Wisconsin DNR financial assistance for well treatment.

Why test? Testing tells you if the water you're drinking at home is safe. While public water systems are tested regularly, private well owners are responsible for regularly testing their water. In Eau Claire County and throughout Wisconsin, as many as 1 in 5 wells may have unsafe levels of nitrate in water. Nitrate levels above 10 parts per million are most harmful for pregnant women, unborn children, and infants, but long-term exposure can be harmful for anyone. High nitrate levels make it harder for our blood to carry the oxygen our bodies need. High bacteria levels in drinking water can cause flu-like illnesses and are unsafe for anyone to consume.

If you have any questions about the well water testing drop off service or other questions, please visit our website at wells.ehealthdepartment.org or call us at 715-839-4718.

Eau Claire City-County Health Department

Do you know what's in your H₂O?

Protect your family. Test your well water.

Save yourself time and gas! From March 1st-April 30th, we'll bring your water samples to the Health Department.

- 1 Pick up your sample bottles at one of these locations during business hours:**
(We recommend testing private wells annually for bacteria and nitrate. The cost of these tests is \$48.)
 - Augusta Library**
113 N. Stone St.
Augusta
 - Augusta City Hall**
145 W. Lincoln St.
Augusta
 - Beaver Creek Reserve**
51 County Rd K
Fall Creek
 - Fairchild Library**
208 Fulton St
Fairchild
 - Fall Creek Library**
122 E. Lincoln Ave
Fall Creek
 - Simple Traditions Clinic**
152 W. Lincoln St.
Augusta
- 2 Fill up the sample bottles following instructions on the day you want to drop it off.**
- 3 Drop off the filled sample bottles to one of these locations during listed times.**
 - Augusta Library**
Tuesdays, 9am-5pm
 - Beaver Creek Reserve**
Sundays, 12pm-5pm
 - Fairchild Library**
Tuesdays, 10:30am-5pm
 - Fall Creek Library**
Tuesdays, 10am-4pm
- 4 Health Department will mail you a bill for testing fees. Results will be mailed/emailed.**

Testing is for homeowner's knowledge only. If your results are unsafe, our lab team can recommend optional testing/treatment, and share information about potential WI DNR financial assistance for treatment. More water samples are also accepted year-round at the Health Department - Mon - Thurs, 9am-5pm.

Questions? Call 715-839-4718

Eau Claire City-County Health Department

1300 Second Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54601-0487
 Phone: 715-839-4718
 Fax: 715-839-4718

Private Well Water Sample Submission Form

Contact Information

Owner's Name: _____

Owner's Street Address: _____

Owner's Telephone Number: _____ Owner City: _____ Owner State: _____ Owner Zip: _____

Prefer to receive results by email
 Email address: _____

Prefer to receive results by mail Same address as above

Name: _____

Address: _____

Sample Information

Well/Sample Address: _____ County: _____

Who collected the sample? _____ Date Sampled (MM-DD-YY): _____ Time sample was collected: _____ am pm

Sample Location:
 Kitchen Tap
 Hydrant

Reason for Test:
 Annual Test
 Previous Unsafe
 Color/Taste/Odor

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