

## **Health Unit reminds well owners to test their water during continuing drought conditions**

As we enter the fall season with many areas continuing to feel the effects of an ongoing drought, the health unit would like to remind well owners that the water supply in their well may be at risk and should be sampled.

During times of prolonged drought, wells can be susceptible to contamination due to varying water levels. As water levels in the water table drop, some wells may draw contaminants from further away into your drinking water supply. In addition soil may compact and pull away from well casings making them vulnerable to runoff when it does rain. In times of drought, well owners may notice changes in their water supply including quality and quantity.

All private well owners are urged to sample their wells to ensure the bacteriological quality of their water has not changed. Water testing bottles are available at any of our health unit offices as well as other sites within the tri-county area including many municipal offices. These filled bottles can be returned to any health unit office or designated drop off site – check our web site for locations [www.healthunit.org](http://www.healthunit.org).

Testing is free. Should your sample results indicate poor bacteriological quality, boil the water at a rolling boil for one minute and then cool and store safely for use. While disinfection of contaminated wells is often recommended; this process (which requires flushing) may result in your well running dry during drought conditions. Call the health unit to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this procedure.

For more information on well water please visit the health unit website at <http://www.healthunit.org/water/>

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