

Public and Tribal Health Guide to the Wisconsin Well Testing Access Program (WellTAP)

What is WellTAP?

The **Wisconsin Well Testing Access Program (WellTAP)** provides no-cost testing to private well users for whom a burden prevents them from testing their wells for Wisconsin's most common groundwater contaminants.* WellTAP is provided to well users through coordination with the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and local and tribal health departments (LTHDs).

Who qualifies for WellTAP?

To qualify for WellTAP, the following criteria must be met:

1) The well must serve one of the following key target groups:



Pregnant person



Child (12 and under)



Person with a weakened immune system

2) The well user(s) must meet these eligibility parameters:



The well is from their primary residence.



A burden prevents the well user from testing on their own.

Each LTHD can set their own parameters to use to determine burden. The following are example parameters. Any or all of these parameters can be used:

- Women, Infant, Children (WIC) clients
- FoodShare clients
- Medicare-eligible individuals
- Unpaid caregivers
- Seasonal worker households
- Low-income households**
- BadgerCare clients
- Medicaid-eligible individuals
- Single-parent households
- Intergenerational households
- Migrant worker households

What tests does WellTAP provide?

The program provides qualified well users no-cost testing for bacteria, nitrate, fluoride, and metals. Metals include aluminum, arsenic, cadmium, calcium, chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, nickel, strontium, vanadium, and zinc.

* This program was previously known as the *Fee-Exempt Testing Program* and *Well-Baby Testing Program*.

** One definition for low-income is "having an income less than 150% of the federal poverty level".



How does WellTAP sampling work?



Request sample kit(s).

Sample kits can either be requested individually or in bulk. If requested in bulk, please only request the number of kits expected for a 12-month period. You can request sample kits by contacting the lab at 800-442-4618.



Collect samples.

Samples can be collected by the well user or LTHD staff. Each LTHD can determine the best approach for sample collection – this can also vary case-by-case.

Sampling instructions are provided in the kit.

Note: Improper sample collection can impact results. It is important that collection steps be followed very closely.



Verify and notify well user of any acute risk(s).

Results are emailed to your agency through the lab's electronic reporting system.

Note: Results are not all sent at the same time. Some results can take a few days to arrive while others can take a few weeks.

Contact the well user by phone or email with the results of any acute exceedances– this includes bacteria detects and elevated nitrate or manganese - as soon as possible.

You can use the [WellTAP Acute Detections Response Guide](#) to help discuss action steps and provide a follow-up sample for confirmation.



Share the final results.

To aid in understanding, you can use one of the [WellTAP Health Advisory Template Letters](#). These letters include:

- ◆ Results overview
- ◆ Key health protective actions (if necessary)
- ◆ Overview of each substance of concern (if necessary)
- ◆ Short- and long-term alternative water options to consider (if necessary)
- ◆ Results table with available health thresholds

Who can I contact for help?

WSLH can help with sampling and analysis questions: webmaster@slh.wisc.edu

DHS can help with public health and risk assessment questions: DHSEnvHealth@wi.gov

DNR can help with private well and groundwater questions: DNRwellreport@wisconsin.gov

Additional WellTAP resources are available on [DHS' Drinking Water Resources page](#).

