



Walk-in Water Testing Program:

The District offers free analysis for nitrates and bacteria in groundwater. Domestic wells should be tested at least once a year for both nitrates and bacteria. Ten parts per million is the safe drinking water standard set for nitrates in public water supplies. Infants are at highest risk from high nitrate poisoning. A condition called methemoglobinemia, also known as “blue baby syndrome”, limits the bloods ability to carry oxygen. This can result in brain damage and even death if not treated promptly. High nitrates have been shown to cause health and reproduction problems in livestock. Certain health studies indicate that high nitrates may also be associated with some forms of cancer. While most wells are free of harmful bacteria it can be introduced into a well during construction or repairs or may enter a well through a crack in the casing or surface seal. It is well documented that certain bacteria pose a serious health risk to humans and livestock.

Nitrates - To have a water sample tested for nitrates, bring a small jar (four ounces) of water to the NRD during business hours. The jar should be washed and rinsed before the sample is collected. Let the water run for ten minutes before filling the jar.

Bacteria - A sterile bottle with a special solution must be used for a proper bacteria test. The bottle and proper sampling instructions are available at the NRD office.

All samples must be keep in a cool place (DO NOT FREEZE) and returned the NRD office within 24 hours.