

Private Drinking Water
August 13, 2026
Webinar Q&A

Q: Is it recommended that EPHS personnel collect the samples or can well owner collect samples?

A: DHSS staff only mail out test kits, but we will mark ourselves as the submitter. This allows the well owner to be able to take their own sample.

Q: Any information on private home cisterns?

A: Usually, an inquiry like that results in us going into internal reviews to figure out what should be done. Also depends on the inquiry; if it's just for normal testing, then we can send them a test kit and see what their water looks like at that moment. If they're concerned about a certain bacterium or chemical, then we can for sure bring in a test kit.

Q: Where can we access the template that was shown for chemical water sample results?

A: We will provide that on the LPHA hub.

Q: We have had several wells come back with lead lately. Is there any way to remove it from the aquifer?

A: No, when we recommend testing for well owners if one comes back positive for lead, we will then have them collect a sample from the faucet, as well as have them collect a sample as close as possible from the well head to compare the two samples to see if the source of lead is coming internally from the water system and home. A lot of times fixtures or copper pipes that use solder could potentially add lead to the system. If it's in the water source itself there's really no way to prevent that from occurring and no way to directly remove lead from an aquifer because of such a large amount of water volume. However, there are home water treatment systems that work regardless of the source of lead. Reverse osmosis or carbon filtration are methods used for lead removal. Missouri has some of the largest lead deposits in the world and a long history of lead mining. If you're in an area identified as an EPA Lead Superfund site and private well owners are inquiring about lead testing, reach out to the EPA and have them sample those private wells - they have additional resources available if elevations are found.

Q: When do you expect the updated well disinfection instructions to be completed? Will these be available on the Info Hub?

A: We are working on the last round of edits, so hopefully soon. It will need to go through our Office of Public Information (OPI) for review. We are also updating the collection instructions that go with the kits. The current version is on <https://health.mo.gov/prevention/environmental-factors/private-drinking-water> .

Links provided during presentation:

SPHL Chemical Kit Printouts

<https://health.mo.gov/prevention/environmental-factors/private-drinking-water/well-water-test-kit-information-and-services>

DHSS Private Drinking Water

<https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/privatedrinkingwater/>

SPHL Home Page

<https://health.mo.gov/state-public-health-laboratory/state-public-health-laboratory>

DNR Certified Labs

<https://dnr.mo.gov/water/business-industry-other-entities/certified-laboratories>

DNR Public Drinking Water Viewer

<https://dnr.mo.gov/water/data-e-services/drinking-water-viewer>

DNR Well Info Management System (WIMS)

<https://apps5.mo.gov/wims2/menu/customQueryPub.action>

Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water (GLOS)

<https://health.mo.gov/prevention/environmental-factors/get-lead-out-school-drinking-water>

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN)

<https://health.mo.gov/prevention/environmental-factors/wiin-grant>

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