

September 04, 2020

Dear Home Owner:

The municipality of Edwardsburgh Cardinal and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) are working closely with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit regarding a number of private wells in the village of Spencerville where recent test results are indicating varying levels of the presence of bacteria.

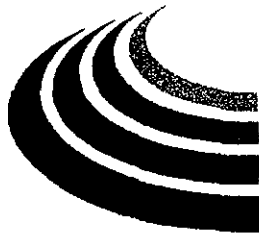
Expanded testing and further investigation are suggesting that there may be several contributing factors in this area including older shallow wells that may be vulnerable to contamination, heavy rain events where run off may have picked up surface contaminants such as pet feces and contaminated the upper aquifer, and generally thin soils and fractured rock in this area. Testing parameters are indicating that the E. Coli bacteria in some wells is not from a human or bovine source.

If your well was recently tested and results are showing you have bacteria in your water, it is important to stop using the water and either to boil it for one minute and cool it prior to use or use an alternative safe supply. If you have been unwell, contact your health care provider. If your well was not tested I highly recommend that you do so to determine if your well water is safe for drinking. Bacteria in well water may not change the taste or smell of the water, so the only way you can determine if it is safe is to sample. Sampling your well water is a free service and sample bottles are available at the municipal office or health unit locations.

Should your sample results indicate that your water is unsafe for drinking; the well should be disinfected as per the instructions on the fact sheet. Following disinfection, and once the chlorine bleach solution is out of the well it is important **to sample the water once a week over a minimum three week period**. Sampling a few days after a heavy rain may help you identify if your well is vulnerable. All results must be satisfactory before you resume drinking the water.

Where satisfactory results, over the three week period, are not achieved the health unit recommends that you contact a water treatment company regarding a water treatment system that can be installed to effectively treat your water.

It is important to sample your well water regularly even if you have a treatment system, and to maintain the system as per the manufacturer's recommendations. Well maintenance and ensuring a safe supply of drinking water for a private home is the responsibility of the home owner.



Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District

# HEALTH UNIT

*Your Partner in Public Health*

Should you have any questions about sampling your well, interpreting the test results or the process of disinfecting you well please check the health unit website at <https://healthunit.org/health-information/drinking-water/> or call our toll free number 1-800-660-5853 and ask to speak to a public health inspector.

Your partner in public health,

Teresa Clow, CPHI(C)  
Manager Community Health Protection

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