Manitoba
Health and Seniors Care
Population and Public Health
4th Floor; 300 Carlton Street
Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9
Ph: (204) 788-6735

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Santé et Soins aux personnes âgées
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Routine Drinking Water Quality Testing Requirements

Quarterly Bacteriological Testing (total coliforms and *E. coli)*

- Conduct a bacteriological test every February, May, August, and November to ensure the security of the source well.
- Conduct a test if any change to water quality occurs (i.e., change in taste, odour, colour, or clarity).

Nitrate Testing

- Conduct a nitrate analysis every 3 to 5 years, or if there are infants, pregnant women, or women planning a pregnancy consuming the water.
- More frequent testing is recommended for wells with confirmed nitrate results or if the type of well construction increases the vulnerability to nitrate contamination. Wells at greater risk to nitrate contamination include shallow wells (less than 50 feet depth), wells completed into shallow sand and gravel aquifers, or wells completed into shallow bedrock with little overburden protection.

Trace Element Testing (arsenic, barium, boron, fluoride, uranium, manganese)

- Conduct an initial test to determine if any concerns exist.
  - If no trace element concentrations are identified, conduct another test in 5 years.
  - If any trace elements are detected, but concentrations are below drinking water quality guidelines, conduct another test in 2 years.
  - If any trace element concentrations are detected and above the drinking water quality guideline, conduct a retest to confirm the result.
  - If the retest confirms the elevated concentration, consider drinking water treatment options to reduce the concentration or switch to an alternate safe source of drinking water such as bottled water or connecting to a municipal system.

Common Minerals (hardness, iron, manganese, chloride, sodium, sulphate, etc.)

- Conduct an initial test to determine if there are any elevated concentrations that may cause aesthetic concerns with the water (i.e., staining of laundry and plumbing fixtures, taste, odour).
- A common-minerals test is also required when determining drinking water treatment options.