

What Private Water Well Owners Should Know to Protect Their Families

- ▶ The Louisiana Department of Health is only required to test and check public water systems.
- ▶ Well owners are responsible for checking and testing their water supply.
- ▶ Chemicals and harmful bacteria can enter the underground water supply at any time, so it is important to have your private water well inspected and the water tested at least once each year to protect your family.

You should also think about having your well water tested or inspected:

- ▶ Whenever you notice a change in the color, smell or taste,
- ▶ If the whole family has stomach or other gastrointestinal illnesses (vomiting, diarrhea) at the same time that do not appear to be caused by seasonal illness or foodborne illness,
- ▶ When a pregnant woman, infant or person with an impaired immune system lives in the home,
- ▶ If there has been a chemical spill or similar event near your home or well,
- ▶ After a hurricane, flood or heavy storm where the well might be in a flooded area, and
- ▶ If other wells in your area have been found to be contaminated.

For more information, or to speak to a sanitarian, contact the Department of Health at 1-888-293-7020 to find the number for your local parish health unit.

Who Should Inspect Private Wells?

- ▶ Only licensed water well contractors should inspect your private water well. To obtain a list of licensed water well contractors, contact the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources at (225) 342-8244 or visit www.DNR.La.gov.
- ▶ Work with sanitarians and engineers to find companies that are certified to test private well water for chemicals and harmful bacteria, for a fee.

Contact the Department of Health at 1-888-293-7020 to find the number for your local parish health unit, or to receive a list of labs that have been certified by the state.

Download a copy of the **Private Water Well Testing brochure** at www.lah.gov/PWI or call **1-888-293-7020** for a printed version.

