
Media Release**November 17, 2025****CK Public Health Urges Residents to Test Private Well Water Regularly**

CK Public Health is reminding residents who rely on private wells for drinking water that regular testing is essential to protect health and safety. Contaminated water can carry harmful microorganisms including bacteria. Contaminated water may cause serious illness, or even death.

Testing well water is a shared responsibility between private well owners and CK Public Health. While the health unit provides free testing services for bacteria that can be found in well water, private well owners must take the initiative to collect and submit samples.

“According to the provincial Auditor General’s recent report, despite the availability of free testing, less than one-third of Ontarians who rely on private wells tested their water within the past 12 months,” says Dr. Shanker Nesathurai, Medical Officer of Health for Chatham-Kent. “Testing is one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent illness from drinking water.”

When to Test

Residents should test their well water three times per year, early spring, fall and early summer.

Free and Convenient

Testing is completely free through CK Public Health.

- Pick up bottles at any municipal service centre or CK Public Health office
- Drop off samples at CK Public Health, 177 King Street East, Chatham, Monday–Thursday (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) or Friday before 11:00 a.m.

Results are typically available within 2 - 4 business days.

New Online Portal

Public Health Ontario has launched a new online portal that makes the process even easier.

Residents can now:

- Complete the requisition form electronically
- Drop off their sample
- Access results online faster

Visit the portal here: [Public Health Ontario Water Testing Portal](#)

For more information, visit ckphu.com/drinking-water or call 519-352-7270.

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Media Contact: Jacquie Cartwright

Community Outreach & Public Relations Officer | CK Public Health

E: ckphucommunications@chatham-kent.ca