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MEDIA RELEASE

Free Resources for Well Owners

If you use a private well for drinking water and household use, you should test your water at least three times each year for harmful bacteria such as *E. coli*. Regular testing is needed to be sure that your well water is safe for you and your family. Well water should be tested even if it seems fine, because you cannot always taste, smell or see bacteria or other contaminants.

Free bacteria testing for well owners is available through the [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#). Pick up a bacteria sample bottle from the Health Unit and return it to one of the following [drop off locations](#):

- Midland Health Unit
865 Hugel Avenue, Unit B
Monday to Thursday 8:30am – 2:30pm
Closed daily between 12:30pm – 1:30pm
- Barrie Health Unit
15 Sperling Drive
Monday to Thursday 8:30am – 4:00pm
- Orillia Public Health Laboratory
750 Memorial Avenue
Monday to Thursday 8:00am - 4:45pm

The best time to sample well water is during a period of wet conditions, when rainwater or melting snow can carry contaminants into wells. If your well water is safe in wet conditions, it is likely safe during drier periods, too.

Well owners can learn how to protect and maintain a safe water supply through a **free**, educational *Well Aware* home visit offered by Severn Sound Environmental Association. The visits are voluntary, confidential, and non-regulatory, and provide information and site-specific recommendations for well and septic system care and maintenance.

A limited number of *Well Aware* visits are available this summer. For more information or to book a *Well Aware* visit contact Severn Sound Environmental Association at 705-527-5166.

Well Aware is a project of Green Communities Canada and is delivered locally by Severn Sound Environmental Association. Funding support is provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.