

## **Notice to Flood-Affected Private Well Owners – Test Your Drinking Water**

June 2026

Overland flooding can introduce bacteria, including *E. coli*, into private wells, making the water unsafe to drink.

### **If your home uses a private well that has been impacted by flooding:**

- Do not drink the water.
- Boil water for at least one minute before using it for drinking.
- Continue boiling water until test results confirm your water is safe.
- Wait until flood waters have fully receded and then test your well.

For more information: [Flooding & Well Water Safety](#)

### **Free Water Testing for Flood-Impacted Private Well Owners**

In response to spring 2026 flooding, the Manitoba government has increased the private well water testing subsidy to 100% for flood-impacted private well owners.

- One (1) bacteriological test per household is fully subsidized
- Applies to samples submitted between June 15 and August 31, 2026
- Testing includes total coliforms and *E. coli*

**Eligibility:** Only flood-impacted private wells are eligible and a verification form is required with sample submission.

### **If test results show bacteria**

- you will be notified as soon as possible;
- you will receive instructions on how to disinfect your well; and
- a free follow-up test will be provided to confirm the water is safe after treatment.

### **Routine Private Well Testing (Non-Flood Areas)**

Non-flood affected private well owners are encouraged to test their water at least once each year, and more often if:

- your well is near a river, lake, or other surface water where water intrusion may occur; or
- you notice a change in water colour, clarity, odour, or taste.

Manitoba's routine Private Well Testing Subsidy Program includes:

- One subsidized test per household each year
- Cost: \$17.67 (tax included)

Duracan Laboratory administers these testing programs on behalf of the Manitoba government. In some areas, Duracan is working with municipalities and watershed districts to improve access by distributing sampling kits and coordinating sample return.

**For testing information:**

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**Duracan Laboratory (Subsidy Program Administrator)**

204-960-9995

<https://www.duracan.ca/contact>

Duracan can assist with:

- accessing sampling kits;
- local pick-up/drop-off locations; and
- submitting samples for testing.

The subsidy applies only to testing completed through Duracan. A list of other accredited laboratories is available here: [www.gov.mb.ca/sd/water/drinking-water/lab](http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/water/drinking-water/lab)

**Additional Resources:**

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More information on private wells, testing, and treatment is available at:

- [www.gov.mb.ca/sd/water/drinking-water/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/water/drinking-water/index.html)
- <https://wellwellness.vercel.app>

For general drinking water safety questions, contact the Office of Drinking Water at 204-945-5762 or [odw@gov.mb.ca](mailto:odw@gov.mb.ca).