

# m e m o

**DATE:** June 20, 2018  
**TO:** WIC Coordinators and CPAs  
**FROM:** State WIC Staff  
**SUBJECT:** Well Water – Important Information for Protecting Infants

The information below is about the importance of families testing well water, ideally before or during pregnancy, so that if contaminants are found, the family can decide what to do, prior to the baby being born, to ensure they have safe water.

**Brochures available for you to order:**

- **Well Water and Your Baby**: brochure for households that get their drinking water from a private well and have (or will have) a baby in the home. Discusses the importance of testing well water.
- **Owner's Guide to Wells**: brochure for households that get their drinking water from a private well. Explains that a well owner should test, inspect, protect, and seal their well to ensure their drinking water is safe.

**To order brochures:** [Well Water Brochure Ordering Form](#)

**Testing water:**

- Information about how to have well water tested is included in the brochures.
- Costs vary by laboratory, but generally are about \$20-30 per contaminant.
- Some counties have funding assistance – contact your County PH department or the Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Environmental Health is developing a comprehensive list of existing well testing programs; they will share the list when complete.

**Treatment options if contaminants are identified:** Environmental Health is creating a general resource about treatment options and resources for families whose well water is contaminated. In the meantime, they recommend using a resource developed specifically for arsenic in drinking water: [Water Treatment Units for Arsenic Reduction \(PDF\)](#). This one-pager explains what to look for in treatment units, water treatment units appropriate for removing arsenic and other contaminants and their associated costs, and what low-interest loan programs are available to help cover the cost of treatment. Environmental Health will share this general resource with us when it is available in August.

**Questions or comments?**

Contact **Frieda von Qualen** (Well Management/Environmental Health) at [frieda.vonqualen@state.mn.us](mailto:frieda.vonqualen@state.mn.us) or 651-201-4547.