

Why are we testing your well or should we test your well?

If the State of Minnesota requested to sample your well, it is because your well is within the PFAS-impacted area of the East Metro [Private Well Sampling in the East Metro Area \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

If your well is in the East Metro PFAS plume, you can request that we sample it. [Groundwater Sampling Request \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us).

What is the testing process?

After completing the request form, your request will be sent to our sampling contractor, West Central Environmental Consulting (WCEC). They will contact you within 10 business days to schedule a sample. You may need to be home if we are unable to sample from an outside spigot. After the sample is collected, the lab results can take 3-8 weeks. You will be contacted with the results and advised of any next steps.

What will you test my well for?

The East Metro Unit at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will only test for the six PFAS compounds that have regulatory values. If your well is affected by a nearby VOC plume, the MPCA will test for those compounds as well. For all other contaminants, residents will have to arrange and pay for those tests. A local organization, the Washington Conservation District, has organized well testing and information clinics to help residents in Washington County test their wells for contaminants other than PFAS: [Washington Conservation District \(mnwcd.org\)](https://mnwcd.org). The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) maintains a list of additional certified testing labs throughout the state. [Search for Accredited Laboratories - Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us).

How often should my well be tested?

If your well is in the PFAS plume and has not received a well advisory, it should be tested routinely to ensure your water remains safe to drink. Consistent monitoring of wells allows for timely filtration in the event that concentrations in a well increase between testing events.

Who pays for the testing?

The sampling and analysis of your well water for PFAS is paid for by the 3M Settlement.

What do results in my area look like?

Search the East Metro private well sampling map to view nearby results: [Private Well Sampling in the East Metro Area \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

What if I am outside the East Metro PFAS plume?

If your well is outside the boundaries of the East Metro PFAS plume, the 3M Settlement does not cover the cost of testing. Please see the above section “What will you test my well for” for additional testing resources.

What happens if PFAS is detected?

If PFAS are detected in concentrations below the level of health concern, MDH will not recommend any changes to your drinking water. Please contact the MDH Risk Assessment Unit with health questions. The MPCA will continue to sample PFAS-affected wells to ensure contamination remains below the level of health concern. Once per year is standard for the MPCA.

What happens if the concentration of PFAS requires a granulated activated carbon filter?

When PFAS contamination exceeds a level of health concern, MDH issues a well advisory, meaning the well water is unsafe to drink. You will immediately be offered free bottled water and we will work with you to provide long-term safe drinking water. If a city water connection is not available, a free whole-house granulated activated carbon (GAC) filter will be installed by a professional plumber.

What if I have not heard from the sampler or the sampler has taken longer than eight weeks to send my results?

If you have not heard from the sampler for scheduling within 10 business days of receiving an email that your request was approved, please email the sampler at the contact information below to schedule a sample. If more than eight weeks has passed since your sample was collected, please email the MPCA or call our help line.

What will the results mean to me?

Our staff will provide you with results and analysis, and then recommend any next steps. We will also answer questions related to the testing process. The MDH will answer all health questions that arise from PFAS detections.

Where can I find more information on PFAS and East Metro PFAS groundwater plume?

- [Minnesota 3M PFAS Settlement \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)
- [PFAS – Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(itrcweb.org\)](https://itrcweb.org)
- [Minnesota's PFAS Blueprint](#)

Contacts:

Minnesota Department of Health's Site Assessment and Consultation Unit
651-201-4897
health.hazard@state.mn.us.

East Metro Private Well Program
651-757-2903
east_metro_pfas_private_well_sampling_inquiries.mpca@state.mn.us

Sampler and filter installer:
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