

Is your drinking water safe?



Water Testing Opportunity for Hampstead Residents with Private Household Wells

Did you know that well water should be tested regularly? Some Hampstead residents have their water supplied by Hampstead Area Water Company which is required to test the water frequently and report the results to NHDES, whereas private well owners are responsible for monitoring the safety of their own drinking water. Routine testing for the most common contaminants is highly recommended for all private wells. NHDES suggests yearly testing for bacteria and nitrates, and every 3-5 years for minerals and arsenic. When was the last time you checked yours?

The Hampstead Water Resource Committee, as part of their community outreach program, has arranged an opportunity for Hampstead residents to submit samples for water testing at a discounted rate during the week of October 4-8, 2021. The usual cost for the standard test with arsenic is \$85 but, in partnership with Granite State Analytical, it will be offered for only \$50. Arsenic is a particular concern in our area so it is important to know if you have high levels in your water. <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/lab/documents/fs-arsenic.pdf>

Residents may pick up a water sample kit with instructions from the Hampstead Town Hall and then return the kit to the same location. The samples will be picked up each afternoon by Granite State Analytical. Payment can be made by check or credit card, payable to Granite State Analytical. Copies of the Hampstead Well Water Guide will also be available at the same time.

The basic water test measures: Coliform Bacteria, E. coli Bacteria, pH, Hardness, Nitrate, Nitrite, Chloride, Calcium, Sodium, Iron, Manganese, Magnesium, Fluoride, and Arsenic. All water test results will be private to the well owner/resident. Testing for other contaminants that you may have heard of, such as Radon and PFAS can be arranged directly through Granite State Analytical or any other accredited lab after you receive your initial results.

If you have any questions about preparing the water sample or if the cost of the testing is a hardship, please contact the Hampstead Water Resource Committee at hwrc.all@gmail.com.

For more information on water contamination, pollution and prevention, check out our fact sheet on our website <https://www.hampsteadnh.us/water-resource-committee/pages/fact-sheet-understanding-groundwater-contaminants>, and <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/drinking-water>