

## Franklin Township Well Water Testing 2020

Each year, Franklin Township partners with Raritan Headwaters (RHA) to hold a water testing event enabling residents the opportunity to test their drinking water conveniently and affordably for a variety of contaminants. To adapt to the challenges of 2020, the Township held a Covid-safe, outdoor Community Well Testing event outside of the Franklin Township Municipal Building on July 22nd. RHA staff assisted residents with choosing the right tests and answered questions about their water quality concerns. In total, 27 residents participated in the “Well Test Wednesday” event and returned water samples for testing.

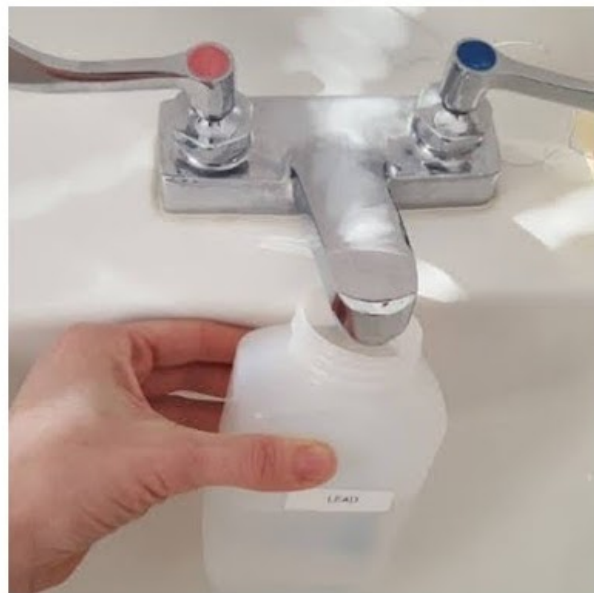


ON THE ROAD WITH RHA'S  
**WELL TEST WEDNESDAY**

**July 22nd 8:00-10:00 AM**  
**Franklin Twp Municipal Building**  
202 Sidney Rd, Pittstown, NJ

Clean, safe drinking water is integral to maintaining good health. Water testing is the only way to determine if well water is safe to drink. On July 22nd, residents may drive up\*, purchase a well test kit, and return samples to us the very same day!  
Visit [www.testmywell.org](http://www.testmywell.org) for more information.

Raritan Headwaters



The following chart is a summary of data collected from these 27 wells on Primary Contaminants of Concern:

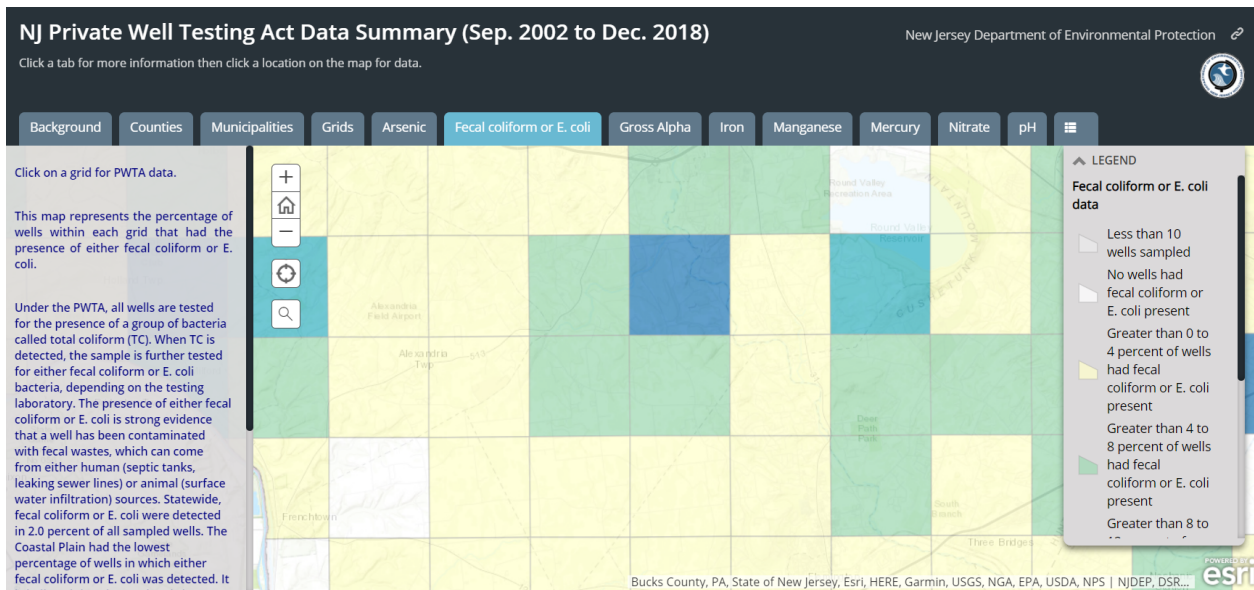
Contaminant	# wells tested in 2020	Limit or MCL*	Range of results (ND=NonDetect)	# wells exceeding MCL
Coliform bacteria	27	Absent	Absent-Present	7 (26%)
Nitrate	24	10 mg/L	ND-4.06 mg/L	0
Lead	10	15 ppb	ND- 49.8 ppb	2 (20%)
Radon	7	2000 pCi/L **	173.6-2259.1 pCi/L	2 (28%)
Gross Alpha	3	15 pCi/L	3.1-7.8 pCi/L	0
Arsenic	9	5 ppb	ND- 2.57 ppb	0
E.coli	27	Absent	Absent	0

\* Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The maximum level of a contaminant which is permitted in public water supplies. Maximum contaminant levels are specified in the Primary Drinking Water Standards set by EPA for contaminants that affect the safety of public drinking water.

\*\* There is no standard set in NJ for radon in water. Standards set in other states in our region are used as guidelines. The most protective of these standards is 2000 pCi/L in New Hampshire.

There are approximately 1317 private wells in Franklin Township. Under the New Jersey Private Well Testing Act (PWTA) which was signed into law in 2001, wells must be tested for an array of contaminants upon transfer of ownership or if there is a rental on the property. The NJDEP collects and publishes data on the results of the testing which may be explored at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/pwta/>. In Franklin Township, 455 wells have been tested as mandated under the PWTA between 2002 and 2018. The following table summarizes available data for Franklin Township on the percent of exceedances for individual contaminants including the number of wells tested under PWTA.

Municipality	Franklin Township, Hunterdon County
Nitrate	0.7%, (455 wells sampled)
Arsenic	7.7%, (454 wells sampled)
Iron	13.4%, (455 wells sampled)
Manganese	11.0%, (455 wells sampled)
Gross Alpha	4.8%, (413 wells sampled)
VOC	0.7%, (455 wells sampled)
Fecal coliform or E. coli	8.6%, (455 wells sampled)
pH	31.2%, (455 wells sampled)



Map image from NJDEP Private Well Testing Act Data Summary (Sep. 2002 to Dec. 2018)

<https://njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=826ec9fae77543caa582a787d5f088e7>



Private well owners are responsible for the safety of their water and regular testing is the only way to know for certain that the water is safe to drink. Based on available data and current public health guidelines, residents of Franklin Township are encouraged to test their wells annually for coliform bacteria and nitrates. Radon contamination of private wells is common throughout northern New Jersey and wells should be tested at least once for this naturally occurring radionuclide, particularly if elevated levels of radon have been detected in the air. At least one test for gross alpha, which indicates the presence of uranium and radium, is also highly recommended to ensure that members of the household are not exposed to these naturally occurring carcinogens. Arsenic is a prevalent contaminant in Hunterdon County wells and testing for this naturally occurring carcinogen is recommended every 3-5 years. Those residents living in older homes, built before 1987 are at greater risk of lead exposure from older pipes and solder and should test for lead in their water every 5 years.

Furthermore, residents can protect their water supply by carefully managing activities on their property and near the well. This includes keeping hazardous chemicals out of septic systems, pumping their septic system every 3 years, and limiting the application of fertilizers to lawns and gardens.

