

Water Sample Collection by Environmental Health Specialists/Local Health Department

DHHS Recommendations

DHHS recommends LHD collects samples from:

- Wells that meet the following criteria:
 1. If constructed on or after January 1, 1972:
 - a. Grouted
 - b. Well head adequately sealed to preclude the entrance of contaminants into the well.
 - c. No visible signs of contamination
 2. If constructed prior to January 1, 1972:
 - a. Well head adequately sealed to preclude the entrance of contaminants into the well.
 - b. No visible signs of contamination
- Wells that do not meet conditions 1 or 2 above, IF:
 1. Well should be currently “in use”
 2. Well owner desires information about water quality for health reasons
 3. LHD should inspect well and issue written notice to well owner stating defects in well and potential for contamination.
- Other supplies (springs, cisterns, etc.)
 1. Water source should be currently “in use”.
 2. Water source is being investigated as possible cause for documented illness or outbreak.
 - a. LHD should inspect source and issue written notice to well owner as to water supply defects/deficiencies and potential for contamination.

DHHS recommends LHD should not collect samples from:

- Open wells – w/o covering
- Springs, unless:
 1. Currently approved .1700 water supply, OR
 2. Source is being investigated as possible cause for documented illness or outbreak
- Wells that are:
 1. Not adequately protected (e.g. not grouted, openings in well head that could allow entrance of contaminants)
 2. Sample request is for a real estate transaction and the well does is not adequately protected or does not meet 2C.0100 setback requirements.

**Please note, samples being sent to the NC State Laboratory for Public Health shall be sampled by environmental health staff. Samples should not be collected by homeowners and submitted to the state lab for analysis.