

# Do you own a well?

If your well water contains...

## Fecal coliform, *Escherichia coli*, enterococcus

### Did you know?

Presence of these bacteria in the water indicates that your water has been contaminated by pollution from fecal matter and can cause health problems.

To be safe, drinking water must not contain any of these bacteria. Therefore, when one of these bacteria is present in the water, it is not drinkable.

### What are the health risks?

- In general, risk of gastroenteritis, that is: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach aches.

### When should you do water tests?

- At least twice a year for microbiological contaminants, in the spring and autumn (after spring thaw or heavy rain).
- If the water changes appearance, taste or odour.
- If work has been done on or near the well.

### What should you do to protect your health?

- Bring water to a full rolling boil for one minute before consuming, or use bottled water for the following purposes:
  - drinking or beverage preparation;
  - preparation of baby bottles or food;
  - washing fruits or vegetables eaten raw;
  - making ice cubes;
  - brushing teeth and rinsing your mouth.

- Tap water can be used for daily domestic needs (washing dishes and clothes) and for personal hygiene (shower or bath), taking care to not swallow any water.

### What should you do to fix the problem?

- Identify the cause of the contamination and take corrective action. Ensure that the well and septic systems are installed and maintained according to standards and recommendations (see MDDELCC).
- Continue to boil the water until these corrective actions have been completed and new test results confirm that the water is safe.

If you suspect health problems related to the quality of your water, contact **Info-Santé**, by calling 811.

For more information, go to “**The Quality of My Well Water**” on the MDDELCC website: [mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca](http://mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca)

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