



May 6, 2022

Dear Early Care and Education Provider,

**Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSP)** is a grant-funded program to promote practices and policies to protect children from harmful chemicals in child care settings. As a part of our work, CSP is conducting a voluntary **Private Well Water Testing Initiative** to provide **free water testing** for Early Care and Education licensed providers who get their drinking water from a private well. The testing will include a \*set of standard contaminants plus Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). See the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for details.

**Who can participate?** Early Care and Education Providers licensed in the state of New Hampshire (NH) that use a private drinking water well where there are fewer than 25 people who use the well. This number includes **both** children **and** adults, which means a license capacity of 19 or fewer children.

**Purpose/Goal:** (1) To help ensure safe drinking water for children and staff in child care settings; (2) To **connect child care programs with resources and potential funds to support water treatment if necessary based on water quality test results**; and, (3) To summarize the water test results to help the CSP Program better understand: the types of contaminants in private well water and where contaminants are found in NH, to design effective solutions to reduce contamination risk.

**Why does this matter?** Drinking water or preparing formula with well water may expose children to harmful contaminants like arsenic, lead and uranium. Since private well water quality is not regulated by the State or Federal government, the only way to know if your water is safe to drink **is to test it**. Following the NH Child Care Licensing (CCLU) Rules, providers that use wells must take responsibility for this testing. This **Initiative** offers a free and simple process that will save time and money. The test results will identify any steps needed to treat water to remove harmful contaminants. **You will be connected with resources as funds may be available to support water treatment should it be necessary.**

#### **What Do You Have to Do?**

- 1) Review the **Choose Safe Places Private Well Water Testing Initiative FAQ** included with this letter;
- 2) Register by filling out the online registration form (<https://bit.ly/3Fd0NHd>) as soon as possible to avoid delays;
- 3) Hear from the \*\*NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to set a day and time for the water sampler to visit your facility to take a water sample;
- 4) Collect water samples for stagnant lead by following the instructions provided (water collection bottles and instructions will be mailed to you before your sampling date). The water sampler will return these samples to the Lab for you;
- 5) Review your test results when they arrive (within 6-8 weeks);
- 6) Watch for the **Well Water Toolkit** in the mail and online, for information on well water testing, and treatment if you need it;
- 7) Contact **Choose Safe Places** for help understanding water test results or determining treatment options if needed.

**Can this count for my regular well testing requirements under the NH Child Care Licensing Rules?** Yes! This will apply for the 2022 calendar year only. The **Well Water Toolkit** you will receive shortly will provide guidance on future water testing.

**How to register:** 1) Register online at <https://bit.ly/3Fd0NHd>. **OR:** If you do not have internet access, need translation services, or to ask questions, please contact Laurie Rardin, CSP Leader, at [laurie.r.rardin@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:laurie.r.rardin@dhhs.nh.gov) or (603) 271-0357.

**Questions?** Read the FAQ on **this free well testing initiative** enclosed with this letter, or contact Laurie Rardin, CSP Leader, at [laurie.r.rardin@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:laurie.r.rardin@dhhs.nh.gov) or (603) 271-0357.

Sincerely,

*Laurie R. Rardin*

Laurie R. Rardin  
Environmental Health Coordinator, NH DHHS

**REGISTER NOW:** <https://bit.ly/3Fd0NHd>

**for FREE Water Testing!**

**Register soon to avoid delays!**

Use the link above or point your phone camera at this QR code:



\*See the back of this page for a List of Contaminants included in this **Initiative**

\*\*See the back of this page for NHDES water testing appointment information

## 1. What am I supposed to Test for (based on CCLU Rules)?

Contaminant	Frequency
Arsenic	Once every year
Nitrate	Once every year
Nitrite	Once every year
*Stagnant Lead	Once every three years
Stagnant Copper	Once every three years
Fluoride	Once every three years
**Bacteria	Every three months

\*Lead testing is required by state law (RSA 485:17a, which was signed into law in 2018). This law applies regardless of whether a facility gets their water from a well or a town or city public water system. Every drinking fountain, kitchen sink, or faucet that children use must be tested because lead levels vary by outlet. Currently, testing is required every five years. To learn more about lead in drinking water visit [www.gettheleadoutnh.org](http://www.gettheleadoutnh.org)



\*\*We are not able to test for bacteria through the Choose Safe Places Private Well Water Testing Initiative. Please note that the cost for bacteria alone is \$15-30 from accredited labs (<https://www4.des.state.nh.us/CertifiedLabs/Certified-Method.aspx>). If you need more information on completing these quarterly bacteria tests please see the page included in the Toolkit or contact Laurie Rardin at [laurie.r.rardin@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:laurie.r.rardin@dhhs.nh.gov) or (603) 271-0357.

## 2. What will the NH Choose Safe Places Private Well Water Testing Initiative Test for?

CCLU Required Contaminants	→ Plus these Additional Contaminants
Arsenic	Radon
Nitrate	Uranium
Nitrite	PFAS (approximately 25 compounds)
Stagnant Lead	Volatile Organic Compounds (approximately 70 compounds)
Stagnant Copper	Iron
Fluoride	Chloride
	Manganese
	pH
	Hardness
	Sodium

## 3. How do I schedule my free water testing date?

The NH Department of Environmental Services water sampler will be in touch with you based on the contact information you provide in the Registration form, to select the day and time the sampler will arrive at your facility to take water samples. Contact Laurie Rardin, CSP Leader, at [laurie.r.rardin@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:laurie.r.rardin@dhhs.nh.gov) or (603) 271-0357 with any questions about this process.

## 4. What else can I do to learn about Environmental Health best practices?

Take advantage of this **FREE Children's Environmental Health e-course!** It is a **free** online training on the ProSolutions website: <https://bit.ly/3sc06IO>. Use Code **NHECO** at checkout to get the free course. The training was produced and created by the Eco-Healthy Childcare Program of the Children's Environmental Health Network.

**Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education** is a part of the APPLETREE Program, implemented by the NH Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the NH Department of Environmental Services, with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The APPLETREE Program is the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposures.

