

Do you own a well?

If your well water contains...

Total coliform, atypical colonies

Did you know?

Most types of total coliform can be found naturally in the ground and in vegetation.

The presence of the bacteria in the water indicates a deterioration in the water quality and can indicate that the well is vulnerable to contamination.

What are the health risks?

- Normally, these bacteria do not represent a health risk but may indicate that the source of the drinking water is at risk of contamination.

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?

- In general, the presence of total coliform or atypical colonies does not require that water be boiled. However, if the presence of these bacteria occurs with deterioration of the water quality

(water is cloudy, smells) or following recent work on or near the well, you should bring water to a full rolling boil for one minute before consuming it.

- Follow the recommendations for twice-yearly water tests to closely monitor the situation.

What should you do to fix the problem?

- If these bacteria are present, you must look for the cause of the contamination and take the necessary corrective action (landscaping around the well, maintenance of the treatment system if applicable, disinfection of the well, etc.).

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

Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux des Laurentides: santelaurentides.gouv.qc.ca