

To: The Readington Township Community
From: The Township Environmental Commission
September 30, 2017

Annual Well Water Testing Available to Readington Residents

Much like annual preventative physical health screenings, an annual well test for bacteria and nitrates is an important part of maintaining good health. We cannot see, taste or smell many common well water contaminants, so regular screening of our private wells is very important.

This practice ensures early detection of potential contamination so that measures can be taken to address any problems. Readington Township Environmental Commission will again partner with nonprofit clean water advocate Raritan Headwaters to offer a full range of well water testing to residents and businesses at substantial savings over commercial rates.

Sample collection kits can be purchased by check at the Readington Township Environmental Commission office in the Municipal Building at 509 Route 523 in Whitehouse from **October 2 - October 26** - Monday through Friday from 9 am-12:00 pm and 1-4 pm. Registration and credit card payment is available online at www.TestMyWell.org. Test kits will also be available in the evening on October 10th and 17th at the Municipal Building Lobby from 5 – 8 pm and at the Three Bridges Library from 5 – 7 pm on Wednesdays October 11th and 18th. All samples must be dropped off at the Municipal Building on **Monday, October 23, Wednesday, October 25 or Friday, October 27** between 6:30-9:00am. Test results will be available about two weeks later.

Raritan Headwaters offers a “basic kit” for coliform bacteria and nitrate for \$60. Basic test purchasers may also select from additional contaminant tests at additional fees. Staff members at RHA are available to advise citizens who are uncertain about which tests to order and to review individual results after testing is complete. More information on the tests and order forms can be found at www.TestMyWell.org. Testing is performed by a private state certified laboratory and results are confidential.

Raritan Headwaters is a non-profit watershed conservation organization working to protect and preserve the public's access to safe, clean water that is swimmable, fishable and most importantly, drinkable. Eighty percent of the residents of this region – about 320,000 people - obtain their drinking water through wells. Well water pollutants found in our region include coliform bacteria, nitrate, arsenic, iron, radon and volatile organic compounds. Sources of contamination may be failing septic systems, pet waste, chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and naturally-occurring contaminants. Water may also become contaminated with lead and copper as it travels through older pipes in the home.

The Community Well Testing program was established in 1974, and has served to monitor the health of our region's groundwater supply for over four decades. Raritan Headwaters recently completed a 30-year trend analysis of well water tests in the region showing an increase in arsenic levels in several towns as well as slight increases in coliform bacteria and nitrate concentrations over time.

Your private well is an important investment that is best protected by regular check-ups to ensure a reliable and safe source of drinking water for you and your family.

For more information on the Community Well Test Program and the list of available tests please visit www.TestMyWell.org or www.ReadingtonTwp.org or contact Mara Tippet, Raritan Headwaters Well Test Manager, at 908-234-1852, ext. 401

For more information about Raritan Headwaters and its programs and preserves, please go to www.raritanheadwaters.org.