



# Nonpublic Household Water Well Recommendation #13: Establish Frequency of Inspection and Water Quality Testing after Initial Triggering Event

## Proposed Action

Nonpublic household water well owners will ensure that their wells undergo an annual physical inspection and test the water quality to make sure that the physical integrity of the well is not compromised and the water is safe to use for household purposes. If the well water is contaminated, water quality tests should be done until mitigation/remediation efforts are completed.

### Recommended Testing:

Test Conducted (When No Subsequent Triggering Events)	Minimum Frequency
Well inspection	Annual
Bacteria	Annual
Nitrates	Annual
VOCs and/or pesticides	Every three years
Others, as recommended by the local environmental health professional	As needed

## Why This Action Is Needed

Groundwater is the main source of drinking water for Kansans, however, Kansas has faced numerous issues relating to groundwater quality. For example, the Kansas Geological Survey has cited studies that determined that about 30% of domestic wells in Kansas have nitrate levels above the EPA’s Maximum Contaminate Level for drinking water. The communities of Pretty Prairie and Hiawatha are dealing with high nitrates in their public water supply. In the last few years, residents served by nonpublic private groundwater wells in the cities of Haysville and Wichita have been exposed to tetrachloroethene in their drinking water that exceeds the EPA’s drinking water standards.

## Potential Funding

Funding to support this recommendation would most likely come from a combination of sources, including: nonpublic water well users, state funding, fees from well construction, and county mill levy/ property taxes.

## Background Information

While well inspection and water quality testing after specific triggering events is important to protect groundwater quality and users of nonpublic water wells, if a well has been inspected and water quality tested within a certain amount of time without a subsequent triggering event, additional inspection and water quality testing may not be needed.

### For more information contact:

Dr. Elizabeth Ablah [eablah@kumc.edu](mailto:eablah@kumc.edu)  
 or Jack Brown [jbrown4@kumc.edu](mailto:jbrown4@kumc.edu)  
 316-293-2627

