

TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE RESULTS OF YOUR WATER SAMPLE, YOU SHOULD KNOW THE FOLLOWING:

COLIFORM BACTERIA:

Coliforms themselves do not generally cause illness. However, since coliforms and disease-causing bacteria often originate from the same sources, the presence of coliforms in drinking water warns that disease-causing contaminants may also be present...and that the risk of contracting a water-borne illness is increased.

If your reading is absent, your water is bacterially safe to drink. Any reading, other than safe, indicates your water is bacterially unsafe to drink. To assist you with understanding or interpreting a water sample test result which is positive for coliform bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria or E.coli bacteria, please review the attached Environmental Health Fact Sheet. The presence of coliform bacteria may be naturally occurring in the aquifer (soil bacteria). However, the presence of these bacteria, fecal coliforms and E.coli may indicate a sample collection issue, a contaminate in the water system, a physical/structural issue with the water well or a contaminated aquifer. Depending on the conditions, additional testing may be advised. Also, a recommendation to consult a certified water well contractor may be made prior to additional water testing.

NITRATE:

When consumed (in food, water or formula) by infants (generally those less than 6 months of age), nitrate can lead to a serious blood disorder known as infant methemoglobinemia or “blue baby” syndrome.

If your reading is 45 parts per million/milligrams per liter or less, your water is safe.

If the nitrate in your water exceeds 45 parts per million, it is unsafe for infants, and may be unsafe for pregnant women to drink. Infants and pregnant women should not drink the water and should not eat food or drink beverages prepared with this water. Other people should not drink the water for extended periods of time if it contains more than 90 parts per million. The presence of nitrate in your water supply usually represents a contaminant, naturally or artificially occurring, in the aquifer itself and not a physical or structural problem with the water well.

If you have any other questions regarding the results of your water sample, please feel free to contact the Cedar County Environmental Health Office.