

# NEWS RELEASE

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*issued jointly from the*

*Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Public Health*

*Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality*

## **NDEQ, DHHS Providing Free Water Testing March 28, 29 and April 1, 2 for Private Well Owners Impacted by Flood**

The Nebraska Departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services are offering free testing for total coliform and E.coli for those samples submitted during the collection events in Columbus, West Point, Fremont and Ashland. In addition, information about septic systems and disposal of solid wastes will be available.

Recent flood conditions can pose threats to the quality of private water supplies. Flooded private water wells or wells suspected of being impacted by flooding should be tested to ensure that they are safe. Cloudiness or a change in taste or smell are signs of possible contamination. However, if there is any indication that the water supply has been breached by flood waters, even without noticeable changes in taste or smell, residents are encouraged to test their well water. We also advise that residents with wells inundated in flood water contact their local water well professional to shock treat their well or follow well treatment guidance from UNL at <https://flood.unl.edu/> followed up by testing.

Staff will be available in:

**Columbus** – Thursday, March 28

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Nebraska Extension Platte County  
2715 13th Street  
Columbus

**West Point** - Friday, March 29

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: West Point City Municipal Building  
444 S Main Street  
West Point

**Fremont** – Monday, April 1

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Three Rivers Public Health Department  
2400 N. Lincoln Avenue  
Fremont

**Ashland** – Tuesday, April 2

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Ashland City Library  
324 Silver Street  
Ashland

Here's how it works:

- Pick up a testing kit at the locations during the hours specified or from one of the local sites listed below ahead of time.
- Follow the instructions and collect a water sample from the private well.
- Bring the sample back before 5:00 PM to one of the locations during the day noted above to be eligible for free testing. Samples not brought to the locations will be subject to mailing and processing costs.

Locations where sample kits may be obtained before the event:

- **Nebraska Extension Platte County** for Thursday  
2715 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Columbus
- **Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department** for Friday  
2104 21st Circle  
Wisner
- **Three Rivers Public Health Department** Monday and Tuesday  
2400 N. Lincoln Street  
Fremont

Nebraskans can also request kits from the Nebraska Public Health Environmental Laboratory to test for coliform bacteria for \$17.00. Order kits online at <http://www.nebraska.gov/dhhs/water-test-kits/private.html> or by calling (402) 471-3935 between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday.