



We Are Public Health



Joint Media Release

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Field Staff Conducting Free Private Well Testing in the Lower Yakima Valley

Yakima, WA- Individuals living in the Lower Yakima Valley who rely on private or shared wells for drinking water may have noticed field staff visiting homes and businesses to offer well testing and collect water samples.

This work is part of a two-year program called the [Safe Drinking Water Initiative](#), which offers free nitrate testing for homeowners with private and shared drinking water wells in the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area (LYV GWMA). Qualifying households can also receive free bottled water and a free filtration system to remove excess nitrates. This program joins the Yakima Health District, Yakima County Public Services, and the Washington State Department of Health to address elevated nitrates in the Lower Yakima Valley groundwater. Elevated nitrates in drinking water can pose [serious health risks](#), particularly to infants and pregnant women, making this testing vital for households in the region.

To ensure that all households on a private or shared well requesting testing through this program receive a visit, the Yakima Health District has contracted with Valley Environmental Services to collect water samples from eligible households. The contractor will call ahead of time to schedule an appointment with homeowners and will be easily identified by their LYV GWMA t-shirts and business cards. If the homeowner is not present when well sampling is conducted, the contractor will leave educational materials explaining the purpose of their visit.

To verify the legitimacy of any field worker, including contractors, residents are encouraged to

confirm the name of the company in advance and request identification when the contractor arrives. For added peace of mind, residents can contact the Yakima Health District at 509-249-6508 or Yakima County Public Services at 1-866-886-7117 to confirm the identity of anyone collecting water samples.

This initiative is part of a decade's long commitment to address public health efforts related to groundwater safety in the region. To learn more about the Safe Drinking Water Initiative and to find out if individuals qualify for well testing, please visit the [Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area website](#). To find out if you qualify or would like to schedule a free drinking water test, please call 1-866-886-7117.

Quote

"We are happy to continue our efforts to ensure safe drinking water for households in the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area through this important initiative. Offering free nitrate testing helps us protect the health of our community and address concerns around water quality." – Shawn Magee, Director of Environmental Health, Yakima Health District

Additional Information

[Yakima County Offering Free Nitrate Testing for Lower Yakima Valley Residents Media Release | Yakima County](#)
[Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area Safe Drinking Water Initiative | Yakima County](#)

Educational Materials

[Nitrate in Drinking Water](#)



[Disinfecting Your Well Water](#)



[Coliform in Your Well](#)



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