

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

EHDW Circular Letter #2022-60

TO: Commercial Environmental Laboratories, Local Health Directors, Connecticut Association of Realtors

FROM: Lori J. Mathieu, Branch Chief *Lori J. Mathieu '22*

DATE: 10/05/2022

SUBJECT: Changes to Private Well Testing Laws – CGS Sec. 19a-37

Section 60 of Public Act 22-58 made various revisions to Section 19a-37 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which are the laws for testing of private wells and semipublic wells. Provided below is a list of key changes that are required of the new law, effective October 1, 2022.

- Any laboratory or firm that conducts testing on a private well serving a residential property or a semipublic well shall report the results within 30 days to the local health department where the well is located. The law previously only required results associated with a real estate transaction to be reported; however with the current changes effective 10/1/22, all results need to be reported.
- The law requires that results need to be reported to the Department of Public Health (DPH), in a format prescribe by the Department. Effective 10/1/22, commercial laboratories that are approved to test drinking water need to continue to send results all results for private wells and semipublic wells to the local health department and to DPH using a newly created email address: DPH.PrivateWellTestResults@ct.gov. Please include the property address in the subject line of the email.

Please note that emailing lab reports to DPH for private and semipublic wells is an interim measure. DPH is actively working on developing an electronic reporting database for reporting of results for private and semipublic wells to DPH. DPH will be coordinating a meeting with Commercial Environmental Laboratories that conduct testing of private and semipublic wells before the end of the year. The meeting will outline the timeframe when Commercial Environmental Laboratories will be expected to start using the new electronic reporting database for reporting results to DPH for private and semipublic wells.



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- The law makes the reported test results confidential, as well as any information obtained from a DPH or local health department investigation concerning the reported results, or any DPH or local health department study of the reported results.
- As of 10/1/22, the law requires all newly constructed private or semipublic wells to be tested for coliform, nitrate, nitrite, sodium, chloride, iron, lead, manganese, hardness, turbidity, pH, sulfate, apparent color, odor, arsenic, and uranium. Required testing for arsenic, uranium, and lead were added to the list of tests that were previously required of newly constructed wells. Testing for lead should be done within the plumbing system of the building supplied by the private or semipublic well. Property owners are required to report results of newly constructed wells to DPH.
 - Lab reports with results from newly constructed private wells and semipublic wells can be emailed to DPH.PrivateWellTestResults@ct.gov. The email subject should include the property address and the words “New well test results” to allow DPH staff to distinguish between results from an existing well or a newly constructed well that was recently tested for the first time.
- The law now requires a real estate licensee to provide educational materials on private well testing to a prospective buyer or tenant if the property owner has hired a real estate licensee to facilitate a property transaction. If a real estate licensee has not been hired, then the property owner is responsible for providing educational materials on private well testing. The educational materials need to include information on testing for coliform, nitrate, nitrite, sodium, chloride, iron, lead, manganese, hardness, turbidity, pH, sulfate, apparent color, odor, arsenic and uranium and any other recommendation concerning well testing that the Department of Public Health deems necessary. Recommendations for private well testing are available on the Department’s Private Well Program webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Environmental-Health/Private-Well-Water-Program/Private-Well-Testing>

Please contact the DPH Private Well Program by calling 860-509-8401 or through email DPH.PrivateWellProgram@ct.gov with any questions.

c: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner, DPH
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