



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
New England Water Science Center
10 Bearfoot Road
Northborough, MA 01532

June 22, 2018

Dear Cape Cod residents:

The U.S. Geological Survey is seeking residents of Cape Cod who are willing to let the USGS collect water samples of their tap water as part of a nationwide survey of drinking-water quality at the tap. The project is described below.

We would like to recruit about 50 volunteers distributed across the Cape and divided evenly between drinking water supplied by private wells and public water systems. The water analysis results will be shared with you but otherwise will be lumped in statistical analysis and will be anonymous. The only formal agreement will be permission from you for USGS scientists to enter your home to collect the water samples. The sampling takes place at your kitchen tap and takes only about 30 minutes.

If you're interested in participating in the national tap-water quality survey, please contact Denis LeBlanc, USGS hydrologist, by (1) sending an email with the information listed below to dleblanc@usgs.gov, (2) sending the information by regular mail to the address shown below, or (3) calling Denis at 508-490-5030 (leave a message with your name and phone number and indicate that you're calling about the tap water survey).

Thank you very much for your interest and support.

Denis R. LeBlanc

INFORMATION REQUESTED

Name:

Address (street address):

Phone:

Email:

Preferred way to be contacted: Phone call? Text? Email?

Water supply: Municipal? Private well? If municipal, supplier?

Age of home (yrs.):

Seasonal or year-round (more than 10 mo.) occupancy?

We are requesting your name, phone, and email only so that we can contact you. It will not be shared with anyone else. We need your street address so that we can select sampling sites that represent different areas of the Cape.

Send the above information to:

dleblanc@usgs.gov

or

Denis R. LeBlanc
U.S. Geological Survey
10 Bearfoot Road, Suite 6
Northborough, MA 01532

Office phone: (508)-490-5030

Cell phone: (978)-501-3065

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TAP WATER SURVEY

Recent events, including the discovery of lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) in drinking water, chemical spills in drinking-water resources, and algal toxins that survive drinking-water treatment have shutdown municipal water systems and alarmed the public. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Environmental Health Mission Area (<https://www2.usgs.gov/envirohealth/>) is conducting national research on the potential for human exposures in the home and at work from natural and man-made contaminants in private and public drinking-water sources. This research is a progression of numerous previous USGS investigations on drinking-water quality in ambient groundwater and surface water, designated drinking water supplies (e.g., Focazio et al. 2008, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2008.02.021>), drinking-water treatment facilities (e.g., Stackelburg et al. 2007, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2007.01.095>), and untreated private wells (Ayotte et al. 2015, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2014.02.057>).

This pilot investigation will be assessing tap water in approximately 20 homes in the Cape Cod area as an initial reconnaissance for longer-term focused investigation into possible tap water (TW) exposures to drinking-water contaminants in areas like the shallow aquifer of Cape Cod that are dominated by groundwater drinking-water supplies and land disposal of wastewater.

The study will assess over 400 chemical and microbial contaminants, including pesticides like glyphosate (Roundup), over-the-counter pharmaceuticals like acetaminophen (Tylenol), prescription pharmaceuticals like diazepam (Valium), PFAS (used in many products, including non-stick cookware and fire-fighting foams), volatile chemicals like solvents, nutrients like nitrate, trace elements and metals like lead and chromium, cyanotoxins (toxins associated with harmful algal blooms), and microorganisms like salmonella that can cause human diseases.

The results will be published in scientific journal articles and reports and will be publicly available online. The results for individual tap-water samples will also be provided to the individual home resident/owner.