

Arsenic in Well Water: What do I need know to protect my family?

Arsenic is known to cause cancer, and is a major concern in well water in the state of Maine. Drinking arsenic contaminated water can lead to bladder, kidney, lung, skin, and other forms of cancer. Arsenic is also known to decrease intelligence and memory in developing children, potentially reducing your child's ability to succeed in school.

Arsenic is tasteless and odorless. Concentrations of measured arsenic vary throughout the state. Some water wells tested in Maine were over 50 times higher than the maximum "safe" concentration.

The Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommends that you test your water for arsenic at least every 5 years. Following recent state legislation, money is now available to help you clean and test your drinking water. Protect yourself and your family.

For more information, please call the Maine CDC public information line at (207) 287-4311 or visit <http://wellwater.maine.gov/>