

Drinking Water Well Sampling Quick Guide

Contact a Certified Laboratory

- Laboratory must be certified through the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) for nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen testing.
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/drinking_water/dw_elap_labs_list.pdf
- Inform laboratory that you are a coalition member and need your domestic well(s) sampled for **nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen**; make sure that the lab can load data to GeoTracker.
- Laboratory and/or third-party consultants are available to assist with sampling, refer to the Sample Results and Reporting Requirements below.

If you are Collecting your own Sample

- Obtain sample bottles (with or without a preservative) with labels and chain of custody (COC) form for nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen sampling from laboratory.
- Follow proper sampling procedures and **hold times** (provided by your laboratory).
- Transport unpreserved samples to the laboratory using a cooler with ice (39.2°F).
- Submit COC and Drinking Water Well Member Information Form with sample(s) to the laboratory and keep a copy for your records.

Sample Results and Reporting Requirements

- Laboratory will create a GeoTracker account based on the Drinking Water Member Information Form information.
- The laboratory will enter your sample results into GeoTracker, the state groundwater database.
- Your well will be given a global ID# to use in future years if further sampling is required.
- If nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen levels are **equal to or less than 10 mg/L**, sample again the next year.
- If nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen levels are **greater than 10 mg/L**, use the Notification Template to notify drinking water users **within 10 days** of learning of the exceedance and also send a signed copy to the Central Valley Water Board. The Notification Template is included with your outreach materials or located on our webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/drinking_water

No further sampling required.

Central Valley Water Board
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