



**Barrington Area Council of Governments**  
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## **Barrington Area Council of Governments Facilitates Private Well Water Testing for Bacteria and Nitrates**

Nearly all wells in the Barrington region draw water from the shallow aquifer system, contained in the first few hundred feet below ground surface. Residents depend on these aquifers - the groundwater - for drinking, washing dishes, bathing and more. In the Barrington area, municipal and subdivision water suppliers are responsible for testing the water and treating it to maintain certain quality standards for residents. Private well owners, however, are responsible for testing their own wells to ensure the cleanliness and safety of their water.

The Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) in partnership with the Lake County Health Department will offer local access to water testing and informational sessions for residents with private wells. This program will analyze residents' water samples for contaminants such as nitrates and bacteria, including E. coli; this test is recommended on a yearly basis. The BACOG program makes it easy and convenient for residents to pick up a test kit from their village or township office and return their water sample to a central location. Driving to a county location multiple times to complete one water test is eliminated!

Residents from the BACOG communities, regardless of county of residence, are welcome to participate in this local testing program. The BACOG communities with private wells are the Villages of Barrington Hills, Deer Park, Lake Barrington, North Barrington, South Barrington, Barrington Township, Cuba Township. BACOG member governments Barrington and Tower Lakes provide municipal water to residents, and it is already tested by the villages.

Residents may pick-up kits for \$16.00 at participating village or township offices November 7-10<sup>th</sup>. For a list of pick-up locations and to get directions visit [www.bacog.org](http://www.bacog.org).

Drinking water samples will need to be dropped off on Monday November 14<sup>th</sup> at Barrington High School, 616 W. Main Street, Barrington between 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. A short presentation and Q&A session regarding groundwater and well water quality will be held at 4:30 p.m. and repeated at 6:30 p.m. Refrigeration and transportation of water samples to county labs will be handled by BACOG; samples must be taken on November 14<sup>th</sup> and kept cool until delivery to ensure test results are accurate.

As part of BACOG's on-going mission to collect and analyze valuable water supply and water quality information for this region, residents may also join the BACOG "Water Quality Testing Network" to participate in additional, more comprehensive, reduced-cost water quality testing for other contaminants like arsenic, fluoride, fertilizers and industrial chemicals. These tests are completed at the state's public laboratory and/or a private laboratory.

For more information, please visit the BACOG website at [www.bacog.org](http://www.bacog.org), "Water Resources" page, or call (847) 381-7871.