

March 3, 2021

Dear Hullcar Valley Private Well User,

Interior Health encourages all private well users in the Hullcar Valley area to follow good practices for well water safety and regularly test their well water. For more information about well water testing, please read the enclosed information pamphlet provided by HealthLink BC.

To maintain safe drinking water, homeowners are advised to:

- Ensure wells are properly protected from flooding and equipped to prevent water-borne illnesses caused by contamination of water with harmful bacteria such as *E. coli*;
- Routinely test well water – this is the only way to know for sure what is in your water.

Hullcar Valley Aquifer

In July 2014, residents drawing water from the Hullcar #103 Aquifer in Spallumcheen were advised to take special precautions and to test their well water for nitrate levels. Since that time, B.C. provincial agencies have worked to identify nitrate sources and taken action to protect water quality and public health. Information on these efforts and the steps being taken to protect the Hullcar #103 Aquifer is available at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-permitting-compliance/hullcar-aquifer>

Test results indicate that shallow wells (less than 40 ft/12 m deep) near surface water, including Deep Creek, are at higher risk of containing higher levels of nitrates. Any shallow well near surface water should be considered at higher risk of elevated nitrate levels, whether located in Hullcar Aquifer #103 or elsewhere.

The Steele Springs Waterworks District (SSWD) has commissioned a new well and continues to provide high quality source water.

To learn more about Interior Health's role in providing safe and reliable drinking water, please visit <https://drinkingwaterforeveryone.ca/>

For those living in the Splatlin community and wanting information on the First Nations Health Authority's Community Engagement Project, please contact info@fnha.ca or 1-866-913-0033.

For more information about how to test your well water, please visit the links below. If you have questions about how to test your well water, please contact Selena Russell at 250-306-1905.

Additional Resources

- Care for and Maintain Your Water Supply Well
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/groundwater-wells-aquifers/groundwater-wells/information-for-property-owners/care-for-and-maintain-your-water-supply-well>
- Approved Laboratories for Drinking Water Testing
<http://mlabs.phsa.ca/Documents/8%203%201%20PHO%20Approved%20Laboratory%20List%2020191231.pdf>
- HealthLink BC File #05b: Well Water Testing <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/well-water-testing>
- HealthLink BC File #05a: Nitrate in Well Water <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/nitrates-well-water>
- Nitrate in Groundwater https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/water-wells/no3020715_fin2.pdf