

April 30, 2018

Dear Hullcar Valley Private Well User,

As the annual spring melt approaches, Interior Health is encouraging 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 HealthLinkBC.

**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>.

Recent test results indicate that shallow wells (less than 40ft/12m 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.

Nitrate levels in the Steele Springs Waterworks District (SSWD) water source remain above acceptable concentrations. SSWD is reviewing options to identify and use an alternate drinking water source. Users of this system should continue to follow updates and advisories issued by SSWD.

To learn more about Interior Health's role in providing safe and reliable drinking water, please visit [drinkingwaterforeveryone.ca](http://drinkingwaterforeveryone.ca)

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 Amanda Anderson at 250-469-7070 ext.12271.

**Additional resources**

- Safe well construction and flood proofing <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/groundwater-wells/information-for-property-owners>.
- Approved laboratories for drinking water testing <http://lmlabs.phsa.ca/Documents/PHO%20Approved%20Laboratory%20List.pdf>.
- HealthLink BC File #05b: Should I Get My Well Water Tested? <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/well-water-testing>