

CALVERT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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July 15, 2019

Water Testing for Certificates of Potability in Calvert County

For a long time, we have worked together with property owners, builders, well drilling companies, private water testing companies and other stakeholders to ensure that the water we all consume is safe and meets current regulatory criteria. The Calvert County Health Department wishes to continue to collaborate with our partners in our joint goal of ensuring all our residents have clean potable water. We request your continued cooperation in this effort and wish to clarify the requirements so that everyone has a clear understanding. Below are the specific types of tests necessary for this office to issue a Certificate of Potability:

- **pH and Total Chlorine** (field collected and analyzed)- pH must be between 6.5-8.5 and Total Chlorine must equal zero for each sample collection event.
- **Total Coliform and E. Coli Bacteria** analysis- Two consecutive samples collected 24 hours or more apart from each other must show that both types of bacteria are not present.
- **Nitrate-Nitrite**- One sample with results less than 10 mg/L is required.
- **Turbidity**- One sample with results less than 10 mg/L is required.
- **Other**- In certain areas and aquifers where our groundwater is known to contain elevated levels of Arsenic, we will require that one sample be taken with results of 10 ppb or less. If one initial sample for Nitrate-Nitrite, turbidity or arsenic exceeds the required levels, additional samples (possibly 4 or 5 additional) will need to be collected to identify if a well can meet the requirements or if treatment is necessary.

This office requests that any sample results collected by private laboratories be sent to us using the dedicated email address below:

ca.watersample@maryland.gov

We understand that a lot of water testing is occurring for new construction to satisfy other requirements and want all stakeholders to know that this office will gladly accept those results for the purpose of issuing a Certificate of Potability. Current regulations require that this office issue a

certificate of potability before any well is put into use. In most cases private laboratory results should be submitted to this office, however we are prepared to collect water samples and test for certain constituents (such as Arsenic) when necessary. When complete private laboratory test results are received, you can expect a Certificate of Potability to be issued by this office within 2 days. When water samples are requested to be or need to be collected by the Health Department, please allow for a minimum of 30 days before results can be expected as it takes a few weeks for sample analysis results to be received from our laboratory for chemical tests. We have reached out to our partners with the County Government and hope to soon have a policy in effect that requires the Certificate of Potability be issued for every new house prior to receiving a building final and occupation of the home. We feel that this is a very important initiative that will be another example of the private and public sectors working collaboratively to better serve the citizens of Calvert County.

Thank you for all of your continued commitment to a healthy Calvert County!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Cune". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

MNC/al