



Local Boards of Health are responsible for oversight of private water supply sources used for public drinking water at local, county, and state fairs. Go to [MGL Ch 111 s 122A](#) for more information. The recommendations listed below should be considered part of the local permitting process for these events, intended to help prevent waterborne disease outbreaks.

MassDEP Recommends

Establish a Buffer from Other Activities

A buffer area of at least **100 feet** should be established around wells. No animal shelters, animal feed lots, animal waste disposal, septic systems, portable sanitary facilities, chemical or fuel storage, or vehicle parking should occur within this buffer area.

Work with a State Certified Drinking Water Professional

Event operators should work with a Massachusetts certified drinking water professional at least **30 days** prior to the opening of each fair to ensure that water sources and all water lines are thoroughly flushed and disinfected.

Conduct Water Testing

Total coliform bacteria samples should be collected and the samples must test "absent" of coliform bacteria. Coliform samples should be collected **30 days** prior to the event and again at least **1 week** prior to any use of the water system.

Coliform bacteria samples should continue to be collected and analyzed **each seven-day period** the fair is in operation or as determined by the Board of Health as a result of a site-specific inspection.

Samples for nitrate and nitrite should also be collected **30 days** prior to the event and again at least **1 week** prior to any use of the water system.

If any contaminants are detected, or if site-specific criteria require it, additional sampling may be required.

Work with a State-Certified Laboratory

A Massachusetts certified laboratory must perform all testing. To locate a certified lab and certified drinking water professional in your area, go to <https://www.mass.gov/certified-laboratories>.

Other Resources

Drinking Water Information for Boards of Health

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-information-for-boards-of-health>

Private Wells

<https://www.mass.gov/private-wells>

Contacts

Contact your local Board of Health or MassDEP's Drinking Water Program for more information at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

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