



To: Public Health Partners  
Date: February 1, 2021  
Subject: OHA Launches Free Domestic Well  
Water Testing for Wildfire-Impacted Homes

Dear Public Health Partner,

The Oregon Health Authority will provide free well water testing vouchers to private or "domestic" well users impacted by the 2020 Oregon wildfires. Applications will be open from **February 1 - May 15, 2021** at <https://go.usa.gov/xAycC>.

Vouchers cover the cost of testing for bacteria, nitrates, arsenic, and lead. Depending on [well damage](#), some may also qualify to test for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene as well. Sample collection costs are not covered by OHA.

**Voucher Eligibility:**

All of the following criteria must be met:

- The property was impacted by the 2020 Oregon wildfires
- The well water is used for things like drinking, bathing cooking and washing dishes
- The well has 3 or fewer connections and is not part of a regulated water system

**Priority:**

If demand exceeds supply, OHA will prioritize vouchers for:

- Households that meet certain income thresholds
- Communities that have been historically underserved, including people of color
- Properties that had the greatest damage
- *Second homes or vacation rental homes will not be prioritized but may qualify.*

The intent of this project is to provide water quality testing resources to those who are recovering their homes from wildfire impacts. Because domestic wells are unregulated, water quality testing is not always accessible to these households. After a fire, testing the well for contaminants is an important step to assuring homes have access to safe water. If a test results indicates high levels of contaminants, OHA will provide safety information and recommendations to the well user. OHA does not regulate private wells.

We ask your help in providing information on this Wildfire-Impacted Domestic Well Testing Project to community members and partners who may be eligible. Please help us particularly reach well-users who identify as a person of color, person with disability, person with low-income, or person with limited English language proficiency.

Contact [domestic.wells@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:domestic.wells@dhsosha.state.or.us) or 971-673-0440 for questions.  
Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division